WORLD SOCCER

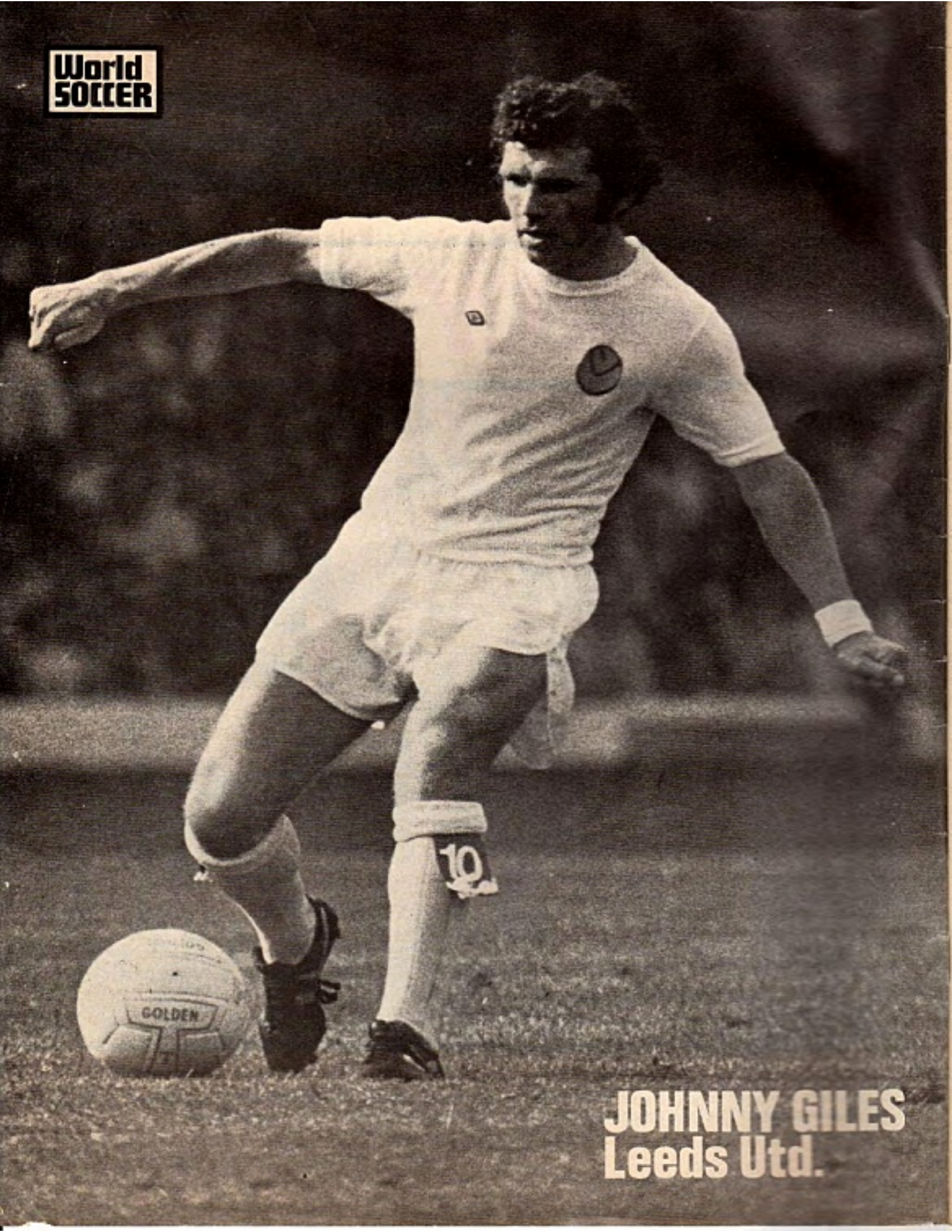
The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

20p

JANUARY 1974

ITALY

Back row left to right: Romeo Benetti, Luciano Spinosi, Gianni Rivera, Dino Zoff, Francesco Morini, Luigi Riva.
Front: Fabio Capello, Giacinto Facchetti, Pietro Anastasi, Sandro Mazzola, Tarcisio Burgnich.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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

With effect from the February issue, the price of WORLD SOCCER is being increased to 40p. This step, carefully considered and reluctantly taken, has been made to give this magazine a real chance of survival in the midst of economic plight.

For the past few months WORLD SOCCER has been losing money. Production costs have increasingly spiralled. The world-wide paper shortage has been an additional hardship. Yet, we can state proudly that the contributors are working for no more—and in some cases less—than they did two years ago.

They have played their part in keeping WORLD SOCCER afloat. But it has not been enough. Now we must ask you, our readers, for support.

WORLD SOCCER is a unique football magazine in Britain. It has a special type of reader, a connoisseur of soccer, someone with a truly international interest. We hope that 40p a month—not so very much when one considers the extent by which the value of the pound has deteriorated in recent months—is not too much to pay for the service you require.

WORLD SOCCER, like the game itself, faces a crisis. You can help us pull through. We believe we can survive. With your help.

Well done Leeds!

CONGRATULATIONS to Leeds United for their record-breaking start to the English season. Twenty games without defeat is impressive in any language and no side is more worthy of the record.

It seems incredible that less than 12 months ago people were writing Leeds off. Remember those headlines after that amazing FA Cup Final reverse against Sunderland?

Giles and Bremner were finished; Leeds were in need of radical improvements. Then came the saga of Don Revie's possible departure and Jackie Charlton's retirement.

Elland Road had a cloud of doubt hanging over it. But Leeds weathered that storm just as they have weathered so many. Giles and Bremner did not retire or slink off into obscurity. Instead they hit new heights and this season Bremner, in particular, has been superb.

Apart from Charlton, who did not play in the Cup Final anyway, there have been no changes. Revie stayed, the clouds drifted away and Leeds set about scaling new heights.

Leeds have not been the most popular club in England during the past ten years despite a fantastic run of success. But even the most reluctant onlookers are beginning to applaud the skill and achievement of the side.

Their performances at Ipswich and Chelsea were superb. The side has never lacked skill, and even in the darker days, when they were labelled as a dirty, dour team, there was no lack of talent.

This season Leeds have shown still more enterprise, a willingness to go forward in search of goals when it might be easier to defend. They set the record at Stamford Bridge not by defending but by taking the game to Chelsea and winning where, two or three years ago, they would have been content with a draw.

Off the field, too, Leeds are a credit to football. Team spirit is sky high, the players are always well groomed and disciplined. Their image is good. They always used to be called professional, although the inference wasn't kind.

It is now that the word professional should be tagged to them. At a time when there is little to cheer and enthuse over in English football, Leeds have brought a rare ray of sunshine this season.

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GOOD TEAMS NOT EVIDENT

IT has been something akin to the curate's egg — this first quarter of the Italian league season. With eight games played, there is not a really good team in sight; there have been the usual number of fatuous statements in the press; there has been the usual quota of silly incidents both on and off the pitch.

Most important to me was the resignation as coach to Roma of Manlio Scopigno. He is an intelligent man, wonderfully articulate, something of an amateur thespian, and a very good *paterfamilias* to players. Given the appointment "over" him of Antonio Sbardella — the former international referee — in the role of "general manager", it was hardly surprising that Scopigno would be off.

He has a talent close to genius for treating his players fairly and honestly, of getting inside their problems and working them out diligently. If at times he seemed something of a latter-day Svengali, then it remains true that a large clutch of people in the Italian game owe much to his advice and care.

Now Roma really need help, and Nils Liedholm has gone there to help them. He takes over a team that over the past few seasons has been poorly treated by its management, been the butt of its supporters. It'll be interesting to watch; for where Scopigno likes to be close to his players, Liedholm is naturally shy with them.

He is probably the better technician. But Roma's major problems do not appear to lie in the field of technique and tactics, rather in that of morale.

Napoli head the table, the only team to remain unbeaten, having scored ten goals in their eight games, and many of those in the last minutes of each encounter.

Clerici has four to his credit, a player of some skill now developing a fearsome reputation; on either side of him he has Juliano and Esposito, both of whom can play a little, and the Napoli defence has been fairly misanthropic, as mean as any in the league. We'll see.

Close behind them are Juventus, still far from firing on all cylinders but still with enough panache and know-how to get through. The club has good reserves, and several players manage to hit form simultaneously. When they all do—then Juventus may start to move ahead.

Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff.

Injured

Among those who have played effectively very much more often than not is Cuccureddu, who has always been a player of class, who has begun to do a Rivera this season and score goals unexpectedly. If only he had another few kilos of weight on him, then what a very good midfield player he might make. Anastasi too often has been injured, Altafina too often ignored, Salvadore too often has held together the defence. But Juventus have the players, and I'm not convinced that Napoli have.

Lazio lie third, doing what comes naturally — being rough and tough at the back and running hard and fast up front. Re Cecconi has yet to reproduce last year's scintillating form, but Chinaglia has scored more than half the team's goals and has a very real chance of being in the Italian team to spur him on.

Confidence

Those British readers who saw him at Wembley recently saw a pretty fair example of what he is and can be—comically unsubtle at times, brutally effective at others. And as his self-confidence grows, so he will use more trenchantly his very real advantages in height and weight.

Inter are patchy, but more good than bad. Boninsegna has scored nine goals to date, four of these on one Sunday afternoon against Foggia (who are very far from propping up the table). It was

PHILIP EVANS reports

no coincidence that on the day in question he was served from the right wing by Mariani, the former Fiorentina player, whom Inter had bought from Palermo in the November transfer market.

If Boninsegna can keep scoring, then Inter will keep winning — cause and effect, supply and demand and so forth. But you can never help feeling about Inter that they succeed despite, rather than because of, themselves.

Fiorentina have trotted along quite nicely, with Antognoni blooming daily, with Roggi a full-back of talent, with enough nip in the forward line to cause consternation to most defences.

Superlative

Radice must know that his team can't win the championship without a string of superlative performances from Antognoni and De Sisti; but the latter has been injured and well though Merlo has led the team in his absence, Merlo is a close-quarters prompter, not a long-range creator.

Bologna tanned the hide off Inter 3-0, have given away only four goals in their eight games, have Fausto Landini beginning to blossom, have Bulgarelli to play the role of the old fox. Most interesting has been the resurgence (albeit patchy) of Roberto Vieri, for my money one of the most talented of European midfield players, but a man of bizarre moods and frequent bouts of defeatism. Keeping Vieri up to scratch could pay Pesaola huge rewards.

Broken leg

Foggia had that disastrous day against Internazionale, apart from that have motored along quite comfortably. Rognoni has been playing in a deep-lying role at centre-forward; Liguori has evinced signs that his broken leg is mended in every sense; Silvano Villa is playing well enough to make Milan wonder how they can get him back.

From Milan Old Boys to Milan itself, and we are just in the top half of the table. It has been a sorry season to date, with much friction behind the scenes between Rocco and his president Buticchi. At many a club such tiffs would matter little, but Milan — of the larger clubs — is the one that has always prided itself with having remained most calm in moments of crisis, that has aimed for a dearth of sensationalism.

On the field things have been similarly sad. No one expected Rivera to eclipse his ethereal displays of last season; none expected Benetti to play with the verve he manifested last year. After all, there is the Italian team to think about, the chance of a trip to West Germany. But these two have disappointed, the defence has proved pathetically porous, Bigon has failed to give Chiarugi enough help up front.

The team has drawn at home to Fiorentina, Juventus and Cagliari; has lost the first derby game of the season by the odd goal in three; lies five points behind Napoli.

Facchetti of Italy and Madeley of England at Wembley.

Splendid

It could be one of Milan's bad years, this; even if the team have put up some splendid performances in the Cup Winners' Cup and remain the only Italian club side to reach through to the spring section of the European cup tournaments.

Rocco's team, in fact, are only one place higher in the table than newly promoted Cesena, for whom Cera has proved a fine general. Four goals for and five against—that gives a picture of where their priorities lie. And their ambitions, I suspect.

Torino and Cagliari are lower than history suggests they should be. The former are still waiting (have been waiting for 18 months) for Sala to return to the sort of form that took him into the Italian national squad; and if Giagnoni remains sympathetic and eloquent, a very likeable and intelligent coach to players, then he still too often frays too easily at the edges at moments of crisis.

His latest outburst came after Torino had lost the derby game to a solitary goal from Cuccureddu. He had had, he claimed "a difference of opinion" with Causio; a neat euphemism for an incident in which Causio's tongue became forged and Giagnoni exercised his right jab.

Cagliari have drawn six, lost two of their eight games. All five of their goals have been scored by Riva; the team is playing better than at times last season; young Butti is showing much promise; the defence remains chronically capable of real *gaffes*.

Down to the really nether regions and Genoa, Sampdoria, Verona, Vicenza and Roma—all of whom will be there or thereabouts next spring, a fact that will make few weep.

Statistic

Elsewhere, one or two points. Heriberto Herrera is back, with Atalanta and trying to discern the reason why a team of such wealth and supposed talent isn't riding away with the *Serie B*. In that league a recent Sunday saw the abysmal statistic that only four goals were scored in ten games.

And in that league as well as the first too many people have taken up the sport of appearing on the terraces with guns in their pockets. Bovver boots are no-one's ideal of an ideal Christmas present, but someone in Italy had better have a damn good look at the handgun laws before some maniac takes to the idea of hunting supporters at a stadium on a massive scale.

HOLLAND QU
FOOTBALL LO

Eric Batty reports from Amsterdam

AT the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam, Holland finally won Group 3 (Europe) to claim their place in the World Cup final stages. Though there was no score it would be true also to say that Belgian team manager Raymond Goethals threw away any chance the Belgians had, presumably to maintain his image.

After the battle he was able to claim that Belgium were unlucky. Unbeaten in six games—won 4 drawn 2 and with 12 goals for and none against. He was apparently proud of what he had done.

Fellow Belgians might well agree with Goethals. If a majority do then he will probably get what he wanted—another four years in charge of l'equipe Belge. For my money—in the words of a phrase I recall from my youth, he should be handcuffed to a ghost!

Having endured all 180 minutes of the two World Cup matches between Holland and Belgium I sincerely regret that we have in football no equivalent of boxing's "no contest". If we had, then the match in Amsterdam would have provided a classic case, for neither side deserved to qualify for the World Cup.

Before the kick off the Dutch FA welcomed FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous and hoped that he would see an enjoyable game. They *must* have been kidding. The only neutral there who might have enjoyed it was Italian team manager Feruccio Valcareggi (there to spy), who with almost 70,000 others saw a totally negative, cynical, rough-house so reminiscent of the Italian game which bears no relation to the football I know.

The Belgian coach.

Belgium were the biggest culprits. Nominally they fielded a 1-3-3-3 formation but Maurice Martens spent most of the game locked between Erwin Vandendaele and Jean Thissen while both Leon Semmeling and Paul Van Himst devoted much of their time to the midfield battle. The result was a 1-4-4-1 team for the greater part of the game.

Goethals (like Ramsey), expected or hoped that the enemy would be kind enough to attack and expose their goal to quick counter attacks. But the Dutch, though they did, by and large, keep their front three up, were clearly not going to do anything so foolish. If they did allow their full backs to push up occasionally and also permitted Gerry Muhren and Arie Haan to go forward at times they made sure that in their half of the field their numerical superiority was always around 4 to 1 or 5 to 2.

There were moments following Dutch attacks when Van Himst or Jan Verheyen broke away in possession but invariably they were cynically hacked down before they even reached the half-way line. This really was a match with a foul a minute—though many of them passed without having to stop the game for a free kick.

Illegal

In the opening seconds we were shown an interesting sidelight on the game. Dutch left winger, Rob Rensenbrink was having his first touch of the ball when he was unceremoniously upended by his opposite number Gilbert Van Binst. This foul by Van Binst, who made no contact with the ball but merely played the man, was a perfect example of the illegal tackle from behind that the English have been trying to ban effectively for two years. Interestingly, though on opposite sides, both Van Binst and Rensenbrink are club-mates with Anderlecht. From that moment on the winger's contribution to the game was minimal.

There was another interesting "tackle" in the second half when Barry Hulshoff charged into the back of Raoul Lambert with so much power that both players were carried beyond the touchline where they crashed into a linesman and brought him down too.

One of the most blatant fouls was produced by Jan Verheyen on Johan Neeskens, but in my book it was no more than justice. Seconds earlier Verheyen was away in midfield and seriously threatened the balance of defensive power in the Dutch camp. Neeskens went across like a train and scythed him down.

The most disturbing feature to me was the fact that fouls were given and taken not in a sporting spirit but with an air of resignation; an apparent acceptance from both sides that this was how it all should be, that there was no other way in which such an important issue could be decided.

Not once in a brawling scandal of a match was a fist thrown in anger. Nor at any time did a player spar up to an opponent and at the end there were even one or two players who shook hands with members of the other side.

Officials

Russian referee Pavel Kasakov was a great disappointment. Like the English referee Keith Walker I had previously numbered him amongst the best officials I had seen. Walker failed in the battle of Antwerp exactly a year earlier and Kasakov allowed the events in Amsterdam to get beyond him. In the 67th minute Kasakov made a gesture. Calling Cruyff and Van Himst (the two captains) to him he apparently appealed to them to exercise some control over their team-mates.

Did Kasakov not know that this was precisely his function? The Russian did caution one player. Late in the game he produced the yellow card and typically it was Lambert who was cautioned—Lambert who as the lone Belgian spearhead was far more sinned against that sinning. His offence was to show dissent . . . during 90 minutes littered with fouls.

I seriously wonder if the referees are afraid to take strict action. Are they afraid of being accused of partiality if they send off one man? Or are they afraid they may be accused by FIFA officials of bringing the game into disrepute by sending men off?

There was in truth precious little real football to be seen, but if players must be mentioned in this connection I would single out Johan Cruyff and Johnny Rep for Holland and Christian Piot for Belgium.

Cruyff produced a few touches that indicated what a good player he could be, while Rep might well have won the game for Holland. Moving into the middle from his nominal role on the right wing Rep put wide a side foot shot that was in fact the only real clear-cut chance in the game. He also went close with four other efforts (all headers), one being brilliantly saved by Piot. Following one of these headers, Piot saved but failed to hold the ball and was kicked on the head as he dived on the ball to make amends.

In the 80th minute Goethals made a sub-

QUALIFY BUT LOSES AGAIN

stitution for Belgium. For one fleeting moment I expected it would be a forward he was bringing on—perhaps Frans Janssens or Jean Janssens or even the inexperienced Andre Denul. But far from belatedly making a serious attempt to score and win the match, even though there was precious little time to spare, Goethals was merely replacing right back Van Binst with another defender—Gerard Desanghere.

Clearly the man was taking no chances. Goethals was more interested in keeping his "unbeaten" . . . hard luck . . . *we should have made it* reputation.

Almost at the last gasp, in the 88th minute the Belgians almost did. Rep, dropping deep in defence on the right fouled Thissen. The entire Dutch team came back to pack their penalty area as Van Himst prepared to take the kick. The ball curled high over the defenders to the far side where Semmeling ran in alone to meet the ball on the volley and side foot it past Piet Schrijvers into the net. Momentarily the Belgian fans roared, but it was no good. The Dutch defence had moved up *en masse*, the linesman's flag was up and though I wasn't well placed to see, it was clear from the non-reaction by the Belgian players that the decision was beyond dispute.

Situation

It was just as clear that both sides had contrived to produce a mockery of a football match, and the situation will get worse before it gets getter, or FIFA intervenes. It would have been disgraceful if that late goal had been allowed through some Dutch defender putting Semmeling on-side, but the Netherlands are kidding themselves if they imagine their management, Messrs Frantisek Fadrhonc and Cor Van der Hart are any less cynical than Goethals.

There are just two important points to come out of this disgraceful affair. FIFA should order that 11 players and the substitute(s) be named one hour before the kick-off. In Antwerp a year earlier, the loudspeakers announced a Dutch team without Cruyff as the players were actually leaving the tunnel. In Amsterdam, the teams were released only ten minutes before the kick-off. FIFA should also stipulate that any change from the named 11 would be regarded as a substitution.

Finally there is a point that should be digested by all those who advocate tinkering with the Laws of the game.

It was a minor thing to make goals difference and not goal average the critical factor when teams finished level in qualifying groups. It was I believe, this change that produced two diabolical games between Belgium and Holland. Clearly it was hoped that goals difference would be an incentive to make teams go for goals. It did—in the matches against Iceland and Norway.

This encounter between Holland and Belgium was won when Holland beat Norway 9-0. Ever since then the Dutch have known that if they avoided defeat against Belgium then they would qualify.

In Amsterdam the Belgians were under orders from Goethals not to expose their goal while the Dutch players knew that they didn't need to win. They therefore played with great care.

Rudi Krol of Holland playing against Belgium in their World Cup qualifying round match.

As things stand the Dutch go through but paradoxically if it was goal average that counted, Belgium would qualify. Justice will be served only by changing the regulations so that goals don't count at all, and a play-off is needed when teams finish level on points.

So far as Belgium and Holland are concerned I have no sympathy with either of them. Whether playing or watching, football should provide pleasure but I found no more joy in Amsterdam than I had at Wembley a few days earlier at the England-Italy fiasco. The game we all love is being ruined. And we all stand idly by. Helpless.

Ron takes over at City

by Eric Thornton

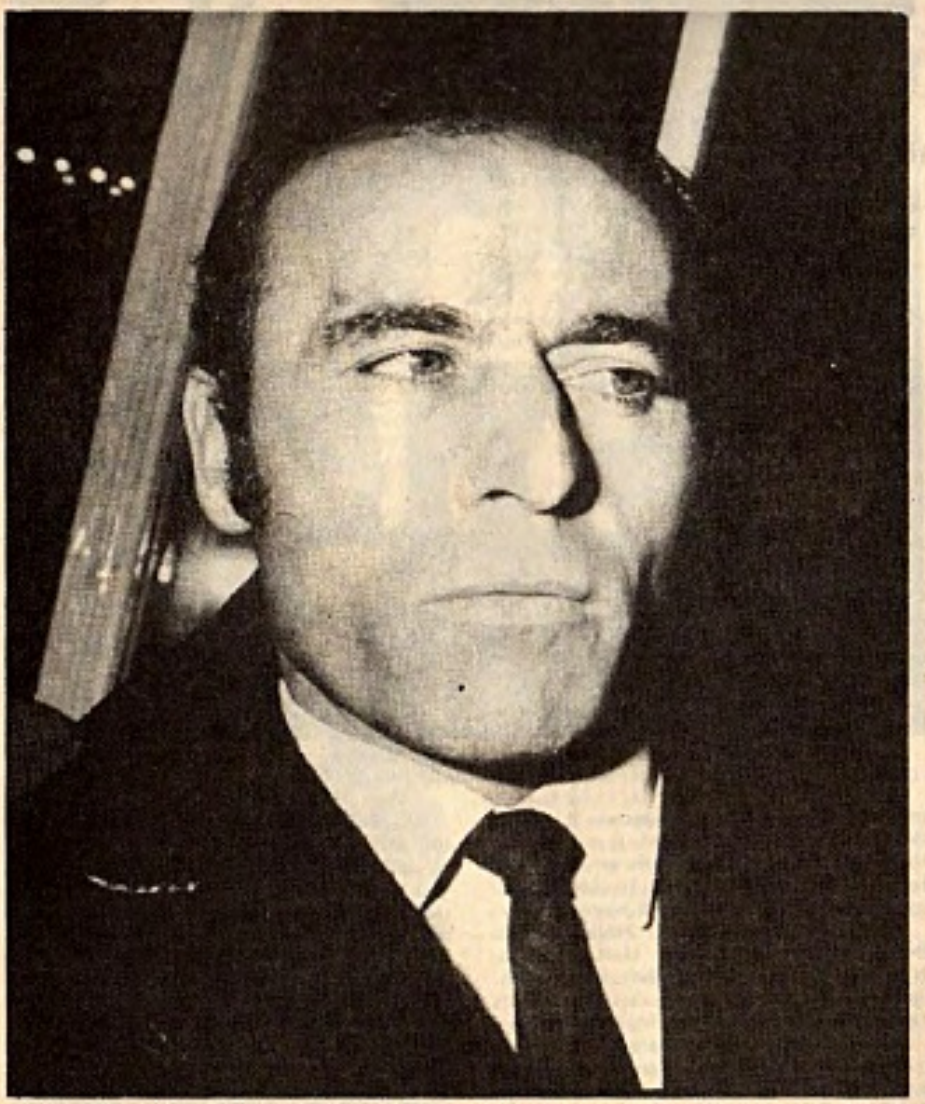
1974 promises good prospects for many of the folk who help make the game tick, and for one, at least, it is likely to prove the most important period of a whole lifetime.

I'm thinking, just now, particularly of Ron Saunders, the new Manchester City manager, for whom the immediate unfolding months ahead could develop into nothing less than a make-or-break year.

Strong words? Not at all. Especially if one examines the twin possibilities. For in the first place, success might bring the Cup-that-matters to Maine Road, win back the missing thousands, and also land the manager-of-the-season title.

On the other hand, failure could toss the old club back into the Second Division, produce a losing balance sheet, and finish with the team playing to empty terraces and stands.

It's as simple as that. Especially if one knows anything about the Blues supporters. An extremely fickle lot, they are never interested in halfway spots, and certainly not in relegation theories.



Manchester City manager Ron Saunders.

Nearly 100,000 apply for tickets when the boys reach the Cup final, all saying they never miss a home game. Yet when City were heading down the First Division chart in 1963, no more than 8,450 customers entered a ground which still proudly boasts the provincial record of 84,569.

Advantage

Saunders began this new mission, however, with the considerable advantage of already having a working knowledge of the Moss Side set-up gained through living around that part of the world in juvenile days.

A Birkenhead boy schooled in the Everton soccer academy, he had played on almost all the north-west's grounds before hitting a trail which provided playing halts at Tonbridge, Gillingham, Portsmouth, Watford and Charlton, and then managerial apprenticeships at Yeovil and Oxford.

Finally moving into the Norwich hot seat in 1969, he remodelled everything at Carrow Road, hauled them into the top circle, then took the boys along to Wembley, for a League Cup-final with Spurs.

Recipe

That 4½-year spell gave the fans on The Broads the best time they'd ever known, whereas triumphs have been enjoyed by his new outfit ever since their formation in the last century. So a prize-winning recipe is again the necessity.

I've no doubt he was fully aware of that in taking over from the ailing but former idol Johnny Hart, and has also analysed a post-war record which names him as ninth boss in a mere 27 years.

Ninth? Yes, sir. It's a bit startling, I know, but that's the remarkable tally of top changes, and one which gives each person a mean average stay of three years, with Leslie McDowall topping the rest with eleven years.

Campaign

First change came in the opening post-war campaign when Wilfred Wild began concentrating on the secretaryship instead of the joint post, and Sam Cowan, Cup-winning skipper of 1934, took over.

He was followed in strict rotation by Jock Thomson, Leslie McDowall, George Poyser, Joe Mercer, Malcolm Allison, Johnny Hart, and now the newest boy of all is having a go.

Moving across country with a reputation as a tough disciplinarian, Saunders has a new assistant in evergreen Tony Book, who, at 39, is not only the manager's junior by two years, but also a veritable walking encyclopaedia of the club.

City chairman, Peter Swales, one of the men who set the Northern Premier League on its feet, said they wanted "someone to take hold of the club, and do something with it". He believes that Ron Saunders is that man. We shall have to wait and see. . . .

News from France

by ANDRE DUCLOS

FINE START FOR KOVACS

WHAT a splendid start for Stefan Kovacs as our new national team manager! Comfortable victory over Greece, honourable defeat in West Germany, convincing victory over Denmark! The significant feature of the win was that Kovacs deliberntely went without the services of all but one of the internationals belonging to Nice, as they were due to play in the UEFA Cup against Cologne. The exception was the black half-back Adams, suspended for three matches after expulsion in the previous round of the Cup.

What is so very refreshing about Kovacs is his readiness, nay his eagerness, to bring new blood into the French team. He has publicly said that it is no use limiting the team to fourteen or fifteen players, since this discourages the rest. Sir Alf Ramsey, take note! Kovacs seems at the moment to be getting triumphantly the best of both worlds, using this transitional season in which there is nothing at stake to rebuild the French international team, while at the same time getting good results. It is his ambition, he says, to show that French football is as good as anybody else's.

The absence of the Nice goalkeeper, Baratelli, who has taken over now from the eternal Carnus, gave Kovacs the chance to send for Jean-Paul Bertrand-Demanes, the lithe young keeper who impressed the crowd at Tottenham a few seasons ago, in a FIFA Cup tie. 21-years-old and born in Casablanca, Bertrand-Demanes announced that he was "as prudent as a Sioux", that he'd believe he was playing only when it happened, but that he would be quite calm; why get excited? A good temperament for a goalkeeper. A much more remote outsider to be picked in the party was the Sedan keeper, the 22 year old René Charrier, who has been in First Division football for only just over a year, and was most surprised to be chosen. But Kovacs is nothing if not bold.

Experienced international

It was intriguing to see both the Revelli brothers in the party; Hervé, already an experienced international, and the 22-year-old Patrick, another Saint Etienne product, of course, who was in fact a member of the French party which played in the Independence Cup in Brazil just over a year ago. Another younger brother to get the call was the Marseille right-back, Viktor Zvunka, another 22-year-old; just. His older brother, Jules, who never played for France, was overjoyed. Young Zvunka recalled wonderingly that only a year earlier, he had not even been able to hold a regular place in the Metz team.

That Kovacs is no great respecter of League positions and form was shown by the fact that he called up two Marseille defenders, the other being 22-year-old—again!—François Bracci, the half-back. Marseille have been having a bad time, those 30,000 crowds sinking sometimes as low as 9,000. They imported Fernando Riera, the former manager of Chile and Benfica, to have a look at the team and see if there was anything he could do. Things have gone terribly wrong.

Further along the South coast, Christian Dalger of Monaco is used to playing before still smaller crowds; 3000 is a fair gate in the Principality. A right winger, pushing 24, he has shown good form this season, as has another 24-year-old striker, the Bastia (Corsica) man, Claude Papi; a player Kovacs admires for his commitment. He too was called up. So was the Saint Etienne stopper, 21-year-old Alain Merchadier. Splendid how Saint Etienne, under Robert Herbin, have rebuilt since the trauma of losing Carnus and Bernard Bosquier to Marseille.

Young talent

I assure you there is plenty of young talent in the French League. Kovacs will no doubt have taken sharp notice of a fine young Nancy midfield player, Michel Platini. In an exciting 1-1 draw at Nice, where Nancy belied their League position, Platini was quite the equal of the general of the Nice team, the vastly more experienced blond Swede, Eriksson.

Yet another French player of Italian descent, the 18-year-old Platini was coached by his father, who is in charge of the Nancy juniors. Last season he played a mere seven League games, all as a left winger. He is still not a full time professional, pursuing his studies as an accountant in the afternoon. Albert Batteux, shrewdest of French coaches, saw his possibilities as a midfield player, and they have been realised with surprising speed. He has fine technique, precocious self assurance and an excellent eye for making a chance.

That there is still plenty of support in Paris for attractive and dramatic football was shown on Saturday, November 10, when well over 33,000 Parisians attended an intriguing "double leader" at the splendid new Parc des Princes. First, an exciting Second Division Derby in which Justo Fontaine's Paris Saint Germaine beat Red Star 3-1. Next, a five goal match in which Paris F.C., the club which sprung from Paris S.G., lost 3-2 at home to Socabux despite a couple of goals from their international right winger, Louis Floch. Incidentally, Floch's name is being coupled with his local club, Rennes, whose new President is known to be keen to have as many local players as possible in the team.

Life suspension

French football has watched the Zoltan Varga Affair with a certain wry satisfaction. It is only some eighteen months since the President of the French League, Roger Sadoul, with a cry of, "We are honoured because we are honourable"— not inappropriately, on Corsican soil—put an end to Marseille's hopes of signing the wandering, controversial Hungarian. Nimes wanted him, too; though as we know he was then under a life suspension from the West German Federation. Now, after a season and a half with Aberdeen, he has ended with Ajax; at a stage when Ajax, much to their surprise and dismay, find themselves knocked out of the European Cup. Moreover they cannot use Varga till next season, the West Germans having commuted the ban for two years, but the Dutch Federation insisting that it be maintained!

The return to the First Division this season of Lens, the Northern club, managed by Sowinski, has been splendidly successful, especially from the point of view of attendances. They set a hot pace from the beginning, even if certain defeats, such as a 1-0 home loss against Nantes—goal by that fine half back, Michel—has somewhat cooled their ardour. But the support has been splendid. There were no fewer than 21,372 for the Nantes game, and a Lens team in which Aghirudis, back from Greece, is the only major name has really surpassed itself. The man who made all the difference that day, and has given new backbone to a Nantes defence which grievously missed him, was Bargas; an Argentinian international stopper who helped his country qualify for the World Cup. This is a magnificent positional player who, when he has intercepted the ball, knows how to use it too.

HEIGHWAY THE SOCCE

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

Steve Heighway of Liverpool.

ET tu, Heighway! It was something of a shock when the gifted, educated, fluent Liverpool forward, one of my own favourite players in the Football League, joined the dour ranks of the Ramseys, on the subject of the Press. Barely a week after Sir Alf, in the bleak, concrete corridors outside the Wembley dressing-rooms, had told the Press that it was none of their business whether he retired, and an individual journalist that while he, Sir Alf, made his living in a "nice" way, the reporter made it in a "nasty" one, there was Steve Heighway, inveighing against the newspapers.

He did it, as one would expect, with a good deal more cogency and eloquence than Sir Alf, who had to resort to the language of the nursery. The purport of his remarks, nevertheless, was much the same. To my shrewdly probing colleague, Hunter Davies, of the *Sunday Times*, he said: "In the football system, they (the Press) are the weak link. They've never played football and they know nothing about it. That first year they were saying nice things, even though I knew they were getting it all wrong. When they said nasty things (*nice and nasty, again, you see!*) I was very hurt, even though I knew they were still getting it all wrong.

Disgusting

"I decided that as neither the good nor the bad was true, I should give them up. For almost three years, I've never read the back pages. I think the standard of popular sports reporting is disgustingly low. The serious papers get it all wrong by over-contemplating what is a simple game.

Y ATTACKS CER PRESS

"I have no confidence in any soccer reporter to write about soccer . . . The reaction to our defeat by Red Star was typical of the fickleness of the Press and public. No one could call them a great side. All we didn't do was take our chances. I think the criticism of England's defeat by Poland was equally unfair. A soccer reporter should not try to entertain or amuse, but to inform. But they can't. They don't understand what it's like to play soccer."

A criticism nothing, you will agree, if not comprehensive. To my mind, it is the measure of the extent to which Heighway, as he himself admits, has been sucked into the professional game. He arrived with the fine ebullience, the somewhat patronising detachment, of a true amateur, even if cash, rather than fame—as he again admits—was the spur.

Conditioned

He has now, alas, been disillusioned and conditioned. Far more worrying to me than the virulence of his attack on the Press, with its mélange of truth, rationalisation and false assumption, is the fact that, as he told Hunter Davies, he no longer gets any true enjoyment from the game.

He speaks of it as a soldier might speak of war; something to be borne, a dour necessity to be supported. If professional football can have this grinding, even dehumanising, effect on as pleasant, intelligent and sympathetic a human being as Steve Heighway, then perhaps it is time we set the whole thing aside.

In passing, one might observe that the game has also clearly helped Heighway to put away childish things; or, more precisely, adolescent attitudes. He admits that "the team didn't like me that first year." It was surprising to me, after the interviews he and Liverpool's other graduate, Brian Hall, gave to the Press at the time of the 1971 Cup Final, that the team put up with them at all.

What a farrago of sniffy superiority, if intellectual snobbery, of assumed superiority! Their wives, too, spoke with amused disdain of the tendency of the players' wives to dress up in what would otherwise be known as their Sunday best, on match days.

But couldn't they, as bright young women with a good educational background, appreciate the social dynamic behind such behaviour? Did they expect sophistication from young working class women who, by a concatenation of events, found themselves possessed of far more money than their mothers had ever dreamed of? Better *nouveau* than never, as Groucho Marx observed.

Hall and Heighway, I remember—my goodness, how indiscreet they were—even recalled a time when Liverpool were out of the city for an away match, and they alarmed the other players by suggesting they should all see the film *Cromwell*. Perhaps the other players had surer taste than Hall and Heighway imagined, since *Cromwell* was a pretty inept and shallow attempt at exploring a great theme.

If their wives are working class girls, then British footballers are boys from working class homes who have, as Heighway knows now, been given *less* rather than more opportunity to develop by the cloistered, regimented, monomanic lives they have led since they were in their early teens.

I believe Heighway has—if one may use the word—graduated now to a more compassionate appreciation of their problems. I myself have always greatly enjoyed the company of footballers, who are fascinating to me, when they talk about football. They have also, in many cases (though the breed has been vitiated since the war and the wage-revolution) a working class shrewdness, directness and sympathy which—without sentimentalising—gives them insights and responses denied to the rigid bourgeois.

Scores

Back, though, to the matter of the Press. That Heighway's criticisms have a large emotional content is plain by their sweeping nature. No football reporter is worth reacing. No football reporter understands the game. Ramsey, if he read him, must have been cooing with delight. He has even said, on occasion, that he believes the Press should limit itself merely to giving teams and scores.

At that last, inept Press conference after the Italian match, he snarled at a journalist that he valued his own opinion "more than yours".

The implication is that football is something mysterious and recondite, whose arcane and holy mysteries are available only to the initiated. The attitude is not confined to football which, whatever the attitudes struck by Sir Alf, is nothing but a game transformed into a branch of the entertainment industry, but is found in much more complex and important activities; the arts, politics, war.

Critics can't know because they've never done it; the cry is as old as the ills. Alas, the implicit corollary, that those who *have* done it make the best critics, just does not follow.

Creative

There is a further danger, which any who has practised in the creative arts will appreciate; that a fellow performer has an axe to grind, a position to defend. A novelist who reviews a fellow novelist may know all about the pain and problems which go into the creative act, but he will also have his own, specific way of doing things, his own apprehension of what the novel should be.

Moreover, as Heighway, with his economics degree, must surely know, the creative and the analytic faculty are quite different; even mutually exclusive. That he inhabits shaky ground is shown by the contradiction in his argument.

On the one hand, football is over-complicated by the serious Press, on the other, it is apparently so prolix a thing that no journalist can hope to understand it. They have never "played".

In fact the great majority of them have played at some level or another, if not as professionals; far more than boxing critics have boxed, drama critics have strutted the boards. The analogy is not iron bound, I agree; professional football is something else again, but the imaginative leap is surely not beyond the critic who has played as an amateur.

The truth is that football players, managers and coaches gang together in a kind of collective paranoia against the media; television now, as well as the Press. They, like the rest of us, find it hard to accept *any* kind of criticism, a fact which is the measure of their insecurity rather than their objectivity.

As my colleague Max Marquis remarked on the subject, it was Dr. Johnson who said that he did not know how to make a table, but he could tell a good table when he saw one.

● *Continued on page 24*

Gregory Tesser talks to Franz Beckenbauer

Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany and Bayern Munich.

Two ambitions still remain

QUESTION: A lot has been said about England's failure to qualify for the World Cup Finals. Do you think the tournament will be affected by England's absence?

ANSWER: Certainly. Even when we defeated England in the 1972 European Championship, I remained convinced that the 1974 World Cup would be a repeat of 1966—in other words ourselves against England in the Final. The games between our two countries in both 1966 and 1970 were real classics, and I was obviously looking forward with great anticipation to a possible third meeting.

In 1968, two years after West Germany's defeat at the hands of England in the World Cup Final, you scored the goal that gave your country their first-ever win over England. Did you regard this win as a major break-through for West Germany?

Yes, because at last we had defeated the country that we in Germany looked upon as our main barrier to international success. And at the same time we dispelled the image which had been created after England's victory in 1966, that they were invincible.

It has often been said that Franz Beckenbauer is Bayern Munich, and that Bayern is Beckenbauer. Is there any truth in that?

Every leading captain must expect this sort of comment. Take Bobby Moore, for example, he is often referred to as the brains behind West Ham. This is surely one of the problems of being captain. If your team does well you tend to receive more credit than your team-mates.

Bayern Munich is far from a one-man team. We have a magnificent squad of players, and every one of them deserves credit for our success during recent years.

Now, of course, all British hopes for World Cup glory rest with Scotland. How do you rate their chances?

I am sorry to say, not very high. The Scots got through this time because of Czechoslovakia's failure to beat Denmark in Copenhagen. Scotland's last appearance in the World Cup Finals, if my memory serves me right, was back in 1958.

I don't think they will be able to withstand the pressures of a big international tournament. With over half the Scottish squad playing for English sides until the end of the season, I don't see how their players will be able to train together regularly enough to be a force to be reckoned with when the time comes.

Don't get me wrong, I think that the Scots have almost as much natural talent as the Brazilians. It's just that it needs more organising.

Do you think the standard of English soccer is in decline?

No. I just think that England are going through a bad patch. After all, didn't Newton once say that "What goes up, must come down". Like anything else in life, success on the football field always goes in cycles. And in the long run it could prove to be advantageous to English football in general.

Apart from West Germany, Brazil and Italy, is there any other country you think might win the World Cup?

Until their elimination by Poland, I looked upon England as our likely opponents in the Final. Now I suppose Holland will take over England's place as one of the favourites. With a player of the calibre of Johan Cruyff in their side, Holland are capable of doing anything.

And one must not forget that over half their side comes from Ajax, and as such are used to playing regularly together.

Success has been a dominant feature of your career. Twice West Germany's Footballer of the Year; in 1966, 1967, 1969, and 1971, a German Cup winner; a League Champion in 1969, 1972, and 1973; and in 1967 you collected a winners' medal in the European Cup Winers' Cup when Bayern defeated Rangers 1-0 in the Final.

All these, not to mention a European Championship winners' medal in 1972, and a World Cup losers' medal in 1966. Is there any other trophy you would like to add to your already impressive collection?

There are two major honours I have still to win. Namely a European Cup Winners' medal, and captaining my country to victory in the World Cup. And I won't relax until I have achieved both these ambitions.

MIXED FEELINGS FOR THE SWISS

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

SWITZERLAND'S football followers can look back on 1973 with mixed feelings. The national team failed to qualify for the World Cup finals and in the process produced the miserable tally of just two goals in six matches. On the other hand, the country's champion club FC Basel and the Cup-holders FC Zurich have both reached the quarter-finals of the Champions and Cup Winners Cup competitions respectively.

Thus, for the first time ever, both Swiss representatives managed to enter this stage of the most important club tournaments in Europe, together in the same season. And only West Germany and Bulgaria can also boast that their teams have similarly survived the Second Round!

This is indeed a great consolation to the Helvetians who were beginning to despair at the state of their football this season. The 0-2 defeat in the last World Cup qualifying tie against Turkey at Izmir, was not only disappointing as such, but it also sadly pushed Switzerland into third place in this group behind Italy and, on inferior goal difference, even the Turks.

The Swiss scored only twice (once each against Luxembourg) but they gained six points! There is little wrong with their defence, as the four goals conceded in six matches testify. So it is easy to see where the problems lie. In Izmir the side had enough chances—four in fact—in the first half to clinch the match, but once again lack of penetration and in addition, a totally incomprehensible nonchalance, if not arrogance, were promptly punished.

Sandro Mazzola of Italy and Karl Odermatt of Switzerland.

Tactical

The Turks, who appeared to be outplayed and outmanoeuvred, made one tactical substitution at the interval. Inside 150 seconds, between the 52 and 55 minutes, they scored twice through Mehmet and Melin. After these hammer blows and faced with a suddenly awakened fanatical crowd of 75,000, the Swiss virtually resigned themselves to their fate.

Sadly, apart from the inability to convert chances, the Swiss midfield axis of Odermatt, Kuhn and Chapuisat produced more confusion that creative moves, chiefly because all three tried to play an attacking game, thus often neglecting defensive duties, when the Turkish onslaught was at its fiercest. Too many "bosses" and not enough "workers"—this was the midfield trio. A chief was badly needed to organise the defence but there was none this time.

Up front Jeandupeux had a fine first half, but Blättler is clearly not a striker in an old fashioned forward position. And the newcomer Hansjörg Pfister 22 (Servette) did quite well, but he obviously lacks experience. Of course, the basic problem of any Swiss national side has always been its multi-racial and multi-lingual composition, with players drawn from the French, Italian and German speaking parts of the country.

The Latins prefer to play their soccer like it is practised in those neighbouring countries, whilst the German-Swiss copy the type of football which the Germans favour. To find, metaphorically speaking, a common language, to marry the different styles and to blend this mixture successfully, this has for long been a major task of all national coaches in this cosmopolitan land.

The old conflict over the system to be adopted by the national team must certainly be resolved before the Swiss can be hopeful of successfully rebuilding their national squad. Team work is of course essential, but how are the Swiss to overcome this problem when they don't play enough internationals?

If England and Sir Alf Ramsey complain about their lack of match practice, after England have played twelve games in 1973, then what about the Swiss who only played six internationals this year? The friendly which was planned against Greece in Athens on November 21, was called off, because of the political unrest in that country. Switzerland's next international will be on May 1, v. Belgium.

Until then, the national coach Rene Hissy must find a new "Libero", another stopper, and he must solve the problems of the centre forward spot, as well as that of the enigmatic Chapuisat, who is one of the best players in this country, but paradoxically doesn't fit into the national side! So the future of the Swiss international squad is not exactly rosy and it is certainly not helped by the approaching winter break which means in effect, that not only the League programme is almost starting from scratch, but that the candidates for representative duties will have their rhythm broken by the three-month lay off.

In the championship FC Zürich extended their lead at the top to a comfortable five points. They were helped by Servette, who unexpectedly ended the fine run by Xamax Neuchatel by thrashing them on their own ground by 3-0! Behind the leaders Xamax were still lying second, followed by Lausanne, but the defending champs Basel in sixth place, were already eight points adrift of Zürich. Curiously, at the bottom, five clubs were locked together all on six points. Encouraging note: After 10 match days, the crowds were up by 56,000 on last season!

PRESS BAN IN MADRID

THE Press have been forbidden to enter Real Madrid's dressing rooms and from publishing interviews with players. The players have also been given orders. Why?

Manager Miguel Muñuz says, "I have been instructed by the Board of Directors and players are under the law of silence."

The interview that Netzer gave to the German press in which he said Real Madrid badly need a good centre forward caused dissatisfaction which may well have led to the banning of the press. The club though their German superstar was being discourteous to fellow players (Real have three centre-forwards .... Santillana, Planelles and Marañon). Netzer apologised to each player.

The real reason for the ill-fated attempt to hush up an unfortunate incident that happened behind the scenes.

Planelles (said to be a difficult temperament) and Benito, Spain's toughest centre-half, had a disagreement and one swiped the other.

Next day Planelles fulfilled a Military Service appointment and Benito went to hospital, where his wife was giving birth to a son. He trained the next day.

Grosso, Maracanas, Verdugo, Planelles and Garcia Remon have been on light training for a week.

A week after the No Comment notice was issued the players were still 'dumb". President Bernabeu, worried about the poor League position, called a secret meeting of players (not all) but after a discussion with his directors and Manager he tackled with key players Pirri, Captain Zoco, Grosso, Netzer and Garcia Remon.

Bernabeu appealed for tranquillity, unity and maximum effort in future matches.

No announcement was issued and the law of silence continues.

During 1973 First Division Football Managers have paid the Ministry of Finance 55 millions of pesetas in Income Tax.

Sums from salaries, signing fees, bonuses and presents total many millions and at a recent meeting with the Tax authorities, Moreno, Iriondo, Santamaria, Arsenio, Marcel Domingo, Kubala, Muñoz, Di Stefano, Michels and company agreed with the terrific assessment owing of 55 millions.

The highest contributors were Merkel,

Haiti qualify...

HAITI qualified for the World Cup finals after Trinidad beat Mexico 4-0 in the match prior to the one in which the organisers had decided to pit the two favourites Haiti and Mexico together.

Mexico had started badly by drawing twice while Haiti, aided by dubious refereeing, had carried all before them. A storm of protest arose after they had beaten Trinidad themselves because the losers had no fewer than four goals disallowed!

After the match both the referee and one of his linesmen were suspended which gives a pretty good idea of what was happening.

But the Haitians are now through and their largely unknown Manager, an Italian called Ettore Trevisan, is guiding the fortunes of the 15th team to reach the World Cup finals in 1974.

His best men are probably a midfield player called Jean Claude Desire and a striker called Emmanuel Sannon. Both of them were in the CONCACAF representative team which played in the Independence Tournament in Brazil last year.

Before the finals the Mexican team manager Javier de la Torre had said that home advantage would be of considerable assistance to a useful Haitian side. But clearly the deciding factor was the rather homespun refereeing decisions.

ZAIRE GET THROUGH

by JACK ROLLIN

ZAIRE have become the first Black African country to qualify for the World Cup Finals. It is unlikely that they will achieve the same kind of sensational results attributed to North Korea in the 1966 series because while the yellow peril was largely unknown, Zaire's challenge will be one of proven if modest ability.

They will almost certainly be ranked as one of the three outsiders along with Haiti and Australia. Yet they will have something more going in their favour compared with these other two minnows. For their manager, the former Yugoslavian international goalkeeper Blagoje Vidinic, was the man who was in charge of Morocco in the 1970 World Cup Finals.

And it must have come as a great irony when the drawing and outcome of the earlier rounds pitted Morocco and Zaire together in the final group along with Zambia.

Zaire's history is a comparatively short one. In fact the country is better known as the former Congo-Kinshasa and even earlier, of course, the old Belgian Congo. It was in those days that many of the outstanding Congolese found their way into Belgian club sides. One of the most famous was Julien Kialunda who spent several seasons playing with distinction in the Anderlecht defence. Another in recent years was Albert Kaysaye who was with Sporting Charleroi.

Kialunda returned to his native country and helped to form the backbone of a very useful team which has gradually won through to this honour of qualifying for the World Cup Finals from a continent which is clamouring for greater representation in the competition.

Alongside players of this calibre came the excellent club side Tout Puissant Englebert Lubumbashi, oddly enough a football team not an African pop singer. They won the African Champions Club Cup two years in succession in the late 1960's

NORMAN CUTLER reports from SPAIN

Michels followed by Kubala, Muñox and Di Stefano.

Puskas has gained nothing through hobnobbing with ruling generals and Greek Government—he turned up at the Greek-Spain World Cup match in Athens with Mr. Papadopoulos as his personal guest and then was overlooked when the Greek manager was replaced.

He is now a grandfather—his daughter Anika married in Madrid last year to Spaniard Jesus Maria Dameborenea, gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in Bilbao on November 1.

Argentine have probably lost their World Cup chances through the transfer of so many good players, especially to Spain, the same as they did during the first great exodus which included Di Stefano who went to Columbia in the '40s.

But this time a number of great clubs might well have been saved from bankruptcy through the receipt of such colossal sums, as the following shows:

Oscar Mas, to Spain	$350,000
Carlos Gaviol, to Spain	$325,000
Ruben Ayala, to Spain	$325,000
Ramon Heredia, to Spain	$325,000
Daniel Carnevali, to Spain	$150,000
Angel Hugo Bargas, to France	$140,000
Angel Landucci, to Spain	$70,000
Mario Mendoza, to France	$55,000
Ruben Diaz, to Spain	$45,000
Joaquin Martinez, to Spain	$30,000
Victor Doria, to Spain	$25,000
Nestor Verdri, to Peru	$15,000
Pedro Gonzalez, to Peru	$13,000
Daniel Onega, to Spain	$10,000
Jorge Dominichi, to Spain	$10,000

Apparently the players will benefit well from these transactions. Besides receiving a percentage of the transfer price, they will collect bonuses up to $75,000 for a contract of three years.

Mas (Real Madrid), Ayala and Heredia (Atletico Madred) and Carnevali (Las Palmas) have contracts which allow them to play in any Argentine World Cup warm-up match.

Aguilar of Real Madrid.

and provided the nucleus of the current side.

Nowadays the club is called the T.P. Mazembe for which everyone must be grateful but at least the effectiveness has not been reduced.

In their heyday T.P. had a useful centre forward in Pierre Kalala. He was succeeded in the national side by Justin Ntumba and now the current squad has unearthed another useful marksman in Kembo, from the Vita club, scorer of two of the three goals which beat Morocco in the vital game which ensured qualification.

However, the most discussed player of the current side is undoubtedly Raymond Bwanga, a 24-year-old centre back from T.P. Mazembe who has already established a reputation as being something of a black Franz Beckenbauer. Behind him and not very far away in skill is goalkeeper Robert Kazadi, a 26-year-old who seems destined to be one of the busiest players on duty in Munich next summer.

In the last couple of years, however, there has been a large turnover in players in the national team. Understandably this has been caused by the arrival of Vindinic who has had his own ideas about a national squad and these have proved correct judging by Zaire's achievement in getting to the African Zone qualification spot.

But there has been a problem of discipline particularly during the time that Vidinic was taking over and several players have been dropped because of this reason.

Even so there is a fine blend of talent available especially among young players who could all start to stake a claim for the team which will eventually take part in the finals of the competition next year.

These include full back Victor Kilasu, midfield players Benjamin Mutombo, Freddy Kapata and Emmanuel Kakoko plus forwards Jean Tshamala and Pierre Ngasebe. This half dozen are all around the age of 23 and have been on the fringe of the national team for the period of Vidinic's reign.

Others who are still in their middle 20s include the strongly built defender Jose Ngoyi (25), left back Albert Mukombo, right back Joseph Lungulla, midfield half back Antoine Mavuba and forwards Adelar Mayanga (25) and Martin Tshinabu (27).

Apart from T.P. Mazembe already mentioned, the other leading club in the country these days is Vita Club, Kinshasa who earlier this year won the Zaire Cup for the second year in succession.

In fact the game is well organised in Zaire now which is an incredible situation when you consider the disruption which only a few years ago was part of every day life in the Congo.

And to have succeeded in a short time in qualifying for the World Cup is a considerable achievement.

The full story of FIFA's part in the dispute—from

CHILE AND

by René Courte, FIFA Public Relations and Press Officer

Chile v. USSR Match

HERE is a full account of the Committee's decisions and exchange of cables as from the date of 12.10.73 and up to the time of writing (12.11.73), regarding the return match Chile v. USSR:

On 21st September a meeting between a Chilean and a Russian representative took place at FIFA House in Zurich. Mr. Granatkin, USSR and Mr. Fluxa, Chile, in the presence of FIFA General Secretary Dr. Käser, discussed administrative, organizational and financial matters of the two home games in the USSR and Chile. They further discussed the arrangements for a possible third match (venue and date). At no time was any allusion made to the possibility that the USSR might consider not playing the return match in Chile.

On 12 October 1973, at the FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee meeting in Gelsenkirchen, Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. V. Granatkin, Senior FIFA Vice-President, submitted a request on behalf of the Football Federation of the USSR to play the return match Chile v. USSR on 21 November in a neutral country, in view of the recent events and the prevailing situation in Chile. Dr. Gofi, on behalf of the Chilean Federation, opposed this request stating that the situation in his country was such that the match could be played there. He stated that all guarantees had been given by the present Chilean Government that the match would be played under normal conditions and that the security of the visiting delegation was assured for the playing of the match and their stay in Chile, this being confirmed in a letter from a Minister of the Government.

Delegation

The FIFA Organizing Committee, at the same meeting, decided by a large majority that the match be played in Santiago de Chile and appointed a small delegation, to go to Chile to investigate matters on the spot. Mr. Abilio d'Almeida, FIFA Vice-President, from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Dr. Helmut Käser, FIFA General Secretary, Zürich, Switzerland, went to Santiago de Chile from 23 to 25 October. The purpose of their visit was to investigate whether the situation in Chile was such that a football of this importance could be played under normal conditions and without endangering the visiting team.

The conclusion of the delegation's report was: "Mr. d'Almeida and Dr. Käser came to the conclusion that, based on what they saw and heard in Santiago, life is back to normal and the guarantees given by the Government are such that the World Cup Preliminary match Chile v. USSR can be played on 21 November 1973. Also the safety of the visiting delegation was guaranteed and there is no increase in danger to them.

"Therefore, the decision of the FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee, that the return match Chile v. USSR should be played on 21 November 1973 in Santiago, should be maintained."

A further oral appeal on 30.10.73 to FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous from the Russian FIFA Vice-President, Mr. Valentin Granatkin, to fix the Chile v. USSR return match in a neutral country resulted in the sending of the following cable to the members of the FIFA Organizing Committee:

"Despite investigating committees favourable report Granatkin still wishes Chile USSR match to be played neutral country stop Cable reply immediately whether you confirm committees decision to play match in Santiago on twentyfirst november Regards FIFA"

Decision

On 2 November, from the 21 members (not including the Chairman) of the FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee, 15 confirmed the previous decision of the Committee and the report of the Investigating Delegation that the match should be played in Santiago; three were against (the figures 15 and 3 include the votes of the Chilean and Russian members of the Committee) and three had not replied. Later, one of the three members who had not replied voted in favour of a neutral venue and a second suggested that an Emergency Committee meeting be called.

On that same day the FA of the USSR was officially advised by cable as follows:

"As based on large majority cable answers received members confirm Gelsenkirchen decision and after consultation with Sir Stanley match Chile v. USSR to be played Santiago twentyfirst november stop Attention drawn to provisions article four paragraphs seven and nine and article twentytwo World Cup Regulations stop please confim

Regards FIFA Käser"

On Saturday 3.11.73 the following cable answer was received:

"Statement of the USSR Football Federation FIFA advised qualification match World Championships football between national teams USSR Chile be held November 21 1973 in Santiago Chile stop well known that as result fascist upheaval overthrow legal government national unity now in Chile prevails atmosphere bloody terrorism and repressions, abolished constitutional guarantees, reigns wild provocative campaign against socialist countries and all democratic forces, being forced anti-soviet morals, allowed actions despotism violence towards soviet citizens being in Chile stop National stadium supposed be venue hold football match turned by military junta into concentration camp place of tortures and executions of Chilean patriots stop At stands also stadium building are kept under arrest thousands innocent people among them many foreigners including Cuban trainers being in Chile for change experience according invitation Chilean sports organizations stop USSR Football Federation addressed FIFA with proposition hold match in third country as soviet sportsmen cannot at present play at stadium stained with blood of Chilean patriots stop Nevertheless FIFA neglected known whole world abominable crimes of military junta and taking as basis assurances of selfstyled Chile defence minister declared no obstacles hold qualification match in Santiago stop USSR Football Federation on behalf soviet sportsmen express decisive protest and declare that in situation arisen when international federation despite common sense blindly followed Chilean reactionaries in this very situation is forced refuse participate qualification match at Chile territory and makes FIFA leaders responsible for it stop Same time USSR Football Federation again confirm its readiness hold match with Chilean football players at territory third country on condition international federation revise its decision

USSR Football Federation"

On Monday 5 November, the following cable was sent to the Football Federation of the USSR:

"Your cable received stop We confim our cable sent second November stop Full Committee considered situation at Gelsenkirchen meeting and decided on twelfth October match should be played twentyfirst November Santiago provided investigating Committee report confirmed playing match in Santiago possible without endangering participants stop Based on positive report Gelsenkirchen decision to play match in Santiago on twentyfirst November was confirmed and this decision communicated to you on twentysixth October stop Based Mr. Granatkin's intervention thirtieth October Sir Stanley requested further cable consultation World Cup Organizing Committee members stop Based on their replies fifteen in favour

FIFA NEWS

THE USSR

Santiago three against and after further consultation with Sir Stanley original decision was fully confirmed stop Your statement contains no new or unknown facts not already considered when previous decisions were taken stop Under these circumstances and after consultation with Sir Stanley the decision as communicated to you that match be played Santiago twentyfirst November is confirmed stop Please officially inform FIFA and Chilean FA you will play return match as decided by FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee

Regards FIFA Käser"

A telex received from the USSR Football Federation on 6 November read:

"FIFA decision about venue of match not acceptable for soviet footballers who confirm their refusal play game in Chile stop Regret that FIFA did not follow common sense and not reconsider its decision

USSR Football Federation"

On 7 November, FIFA received the following reply to its cable of 5 November from Moscow, which was communicated to the Chilean F.A.:

"Officially confirm our refusal play match in Chile stop Insist on having elimination match in third country stop Please inform accordingly Chilean federation stop

USSR Football Federation"

The cable from the Chilean F.A. was received on 8 November and read as follows (translation):

"Acknowledge receipt your cable of 7th informing USSR officially confirmed refusal play match in Santoago de Chile stop Regret that discussion and decision in Gelsenkirchen ratified by visit and report Almeida/Käser plus reiterated opinion of Organizing Committee members were insufficient for USSR to meet their sporting commitments in Santiago stop They prefer to insist on unjust and ineffective arguments outside sport stop Chilean Federation categorically refuses continue discussing situation of USSR stop We reaffirm agreement of South American Confederation of 31 October communicated to FIFA stop

Fedefutbol Chile"

Upon receipt of this cable, the following cable was sent to Moscow:

"Chile informed of your yesterdays cable stop They will play preparatory matches national stadium fourteenth and eighteenth November versus Peruvian and Argentinian club teams and are not prepared play World Cup match elsewhere stop Must we assume from your yesterdays cable you withdraw from the competition stop Please give your final answer by Saturday tenth November at latest FIFA"

To which an answer reading

"Re your cable november 8th we confirm our refusal to play in Chile stop We insist on holding elimination match in third country stop

Regards USSR Football Federation"

was received on 10.11.73.

Late on Friday 9 November FIFA made secret contact with the Chilean Football Federation to ascertain whether the Chile v. USSR match could be played in another Chilean City other than Santiago de Chile.

The following cable went out (translation):

"For Mr. Fluxa

Strictly confidential stop A personal question would there be any possibility of playing the match against USSR in another Chilean stadium in order to check the world press campaign against the National Stadium being called a prison stop For example Vina del Mar or any other which could perhaps bring about an eventual agreement and thus put the Chilean Federation in an irreproachable position stop

Regards Käser"

On 10 November during a telephone conversation, the President of the Chilean Football Federation agreed to the proposal of the FIFA General Secretary to ask the USSR Football Federation whether they would agree to play in another Chilean City and thereupon the FIFA General Secretary sent a confidential cable to Moscow with the following text (translation):

"Urgent stop Just received your cable of 9 november 17.14 hours stop Personal and confidential question stop Would you eventually be prepared to play in another Chilean stadium for instance at Vina del Mar stop Please cable reply stop Thanks

Regards Käser General Secretary FIFA"

On Sunday 11 November 1973 the following comments were received by telex from Chile (translation):

"For Dr. Käser

In reply to your confidential cable which asks a personal question on the possibility of playing the match against the USSR in another Chilean stadium to check the world press campaign we have studied this matter and your proposition seems to merit the following comments stop At the meeting in Zurich Granatkin promised in front of you to arrange visas and obtain a film of the match (in Moscow) but never did so which caused financial hardship to the Chilean Federation and annoyance to all Chile who were unable to see this match stop Our stay in Moscow was surrounded by total lack of courtesy contrary to usual world football standards stop In Gelsenkirchen the Organizing Committee was witness to the unexpected manoeuvre of the USSR Federation aimed at confusing the members, without success in the face of refusal by a large majority in favour of Chile stop Your visit with d'Almeida to Santiago vindicated the Chilean position and your objective report confirmed the truth of Chile, exposing the tough manoeuvre of Mr. Granatkin stop On the occasion of First World Football Day in Barcelona the USSR once again insisted persistently to FIFA President who surprisingly took the matter back to the Organizing Committee obtaining through this new consultation an overwhelming refusal of the Soviet position stop We recall these facts because in all these activities, secure in the knowledge that the justice of their position would help them, Chile patiently awaited the development of this incredible unfortunate and unhappy Soviet manoeuvre and having read today the cable the USSR Federation sent you on 2 November of which you sent us a precis we react with righteous indignation as the text deeply wounds our country its authorities and the Chilian people stop It is now time and we strongly demand that the World Cup 1974 Organizing Committee put a stop to these excesses stop The Chilean Federation clearly and finally refutes these offensive and slanderous imputations of Soviet football which has disqualified itself morally stop Therefore Chile reiterates its traditional attachment to the regulations and respect for the hierarchy of world football and above all for the gentlemanly standards which should uphold relations betwen the members of FIFA stop Once more we refute categorically the suggestion that it is possible to hold discussions as the USSR Football Federation has broken all standards previously mentioned stop

Regarding your suggestion to play at Vina del Mar, I would like to remind you that in 1962 the semi-final Chile v. Brazil was to be played there but was transferred to the National Stadium in Santiago de Chile by the then Organizing Committee because of the small capacity and problems originating from the great pressure of spectators attending stop The present circumstances connected with this match which have awoken world-wide commotion are an even greater reason stop In the interests of better information we ask you to pass on the whole text of this communication in answer to the abrupt cable sent to FIFA by the USSR Federation stop We regret having had to touch on these aspects but we know you understand the annoyance and unpleasantness we have suffered from this attitude of the USSR Federation stop

Kind regards Fluxa Fedefutbol"

On Monday 12.11.73 the following answer from USSR was received by FIFA (translation):

*"Your cable of 10 november 13.04 hours stop Match in Chile is impossible_*

● Continued overleaf

CHILE AND THE USSR

stop USSR Football Federation" to which FIFA replied:

"FIFA must assume that your refusal to play in any city in Chile means you withdraw from the competition stop Please confirm Regards FIFA"

On 12.11.73 the news media were informed that under these circumstances the USSR Football Federation had excluded itself from the World Cup preliminary competition in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of the Regulations which states: "If a team does not report for a match—except in a case of force majeure, accepted by the Organizing Committee—the team shall be considered as having lost and the match awarded to the opposing team . . . a team refusing to play shall be excluded from further participation in the competition; further penalties to be decided by the Disciplinary Committee."

. . . and from the German Organizing Committee

by Dr. W. Gerhardt, Press Officer of the German Organizing Committee, in "WM-74 Press Service"

Official Programme not until next year

The official programme for the 1974 FIFA World Cup is not yet on the market. This handbook, containing all the necessary details on the running of the 1974 World Cup and past World Championships, particulars of the World Cup cities and stadia, information on the history of association football and an introduction of the participating countries, together with introductory greetings from FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous and DFB Organizing Committee Chairman, Hermann Neuberger, will probably be completed at the beginning of next year.

This compendium, in pocket-book form, with a reduced copy of the World Cup poster on the title page and a total of 144 pages, will be printed in four-colour offset, under contract to the DFB Organizing Committee, by SVW Sport-Verlag und Werbung, T.G. Schiegl, 7 Stuttgart 30, Heiligenbergstr. 97. The first printing envisaged is of 500,000 copies. Distribution has been arranged in such a way that each football fan can obtain the official programme in his immediate neighbourhood for DM 5,—.

Neuberger: A Sporting Atmosphere without Discord

An extremely small minority of unsporting rowdies can endanger the good name of all the spectators through their behaviour. In order to check the excesses of drunken "fans", the DFB Organizing Committee for the 1974 FIFA World Cup decided some time ago that during

● *Continued from previous page*

the 1974 World Cup from 13 June to 7 July no alcoholic drink whatsoever would be sold in the nine World Cup stadia. In addition, all other drinks will only be available in light plastic containers and not in glass bottles or cans.

Now, the Chairman of the DFB Organizing Committee, Hermann Neuberger, has asked the press, radio and television for their assistance, together with the DFB and its Organizing Committee, to ensure that the matches of the World Cup tournament take place in a really sporting atmosphere on the part of all sections of the public involved.

Large Call for the World Cup Medallions

The "Stadium Series" of medallions for the World Cup has evoked much interest amongst collectors. The medallions, in pure silver and gold, were struck in the State Mint in Karlsruhe and show, on the face, the nine World Cup Stadia with the World Cup emblem, and on the back, the World Cup mascots in 9 different playing positions. They are available at banks and saving banks.

The sole official agent of the DFB Organizing Committee for the striking of medallions is the Deutsche Numismatik GmbH in Frankfurt. Medallions from other firms, which are offered in connection with the 1974 World Cup, are private mintings without the permission of the DFB.

The German Lottery ("Glücksspirale") Brought in 40 Million

The City Treasurers of Hamburg, Hannover, Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Stuttgart recently received DM 2,868,540.70 each as a contribution towards the enlargement, alterations or new construction of their stadia. That was the share of the seven World Cup cities of the profit from the 1973 lottery "Glücksspirale".

The final accounts of the lottery yielded a profit of DM 40,159,569.89. Besides the 50% given to the World Cup cities (with the exception of Berlin and Munich), the German Sports Association received 25%, i.e. DM 10,039,892.50, to be distributed to the provincial Sports Associations for the development of popular sports. The German Foundation in Aid of Sport (for the encouragement of top-class sport) and the Organizing Committee for the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich received 10% each, i.e. DM 4,015,957,—. The DFB Organizing Committee for the 1974 World Cup kept only 5%. This amounted to a sum of DM 2,007,978.50.

As the Munich Organizing Committee will not have to be taken into account next year, the share for the 1974 World Cup cities will rise from 50 to 60%.

Preparations for the 1974 lottery, which is planned to last from the end of February to the beginning of May, are already forging ahead. The opening transmission on television from the Deutschlandhalle will this time be entrusted to the Freies Berlin station.

Capacity of the World Cup Stadia

The total capacity of all nine stadia chosen for the FIFA 1974 World Cup (from 13 June to 7 July) is 610,459. Of these, 188,996 are covered seats. These figures are the result of exact calculations based on the finalized seating capacity plans which are now available. They also confirm the accuracy with which the capacity estimate of the newly-built and re-constructed stadia was undertaken. For the estimated number (617,400) only differs by 6,914 from the actual number, which has just been released. In fact, as far as covered seats are concerned, there is even an increase of 3,596. For the rest, the advanced sales through the voucher system were based on a capacity which is still within the final figure now available.

The biggest is the Olympic Stadium in Berlin with a capacity of 87,574. The number of seats is 62,896 (of which 28,218 are covered and 34,678 uncovered), which is even higher than the total capacity of the stadia in Dortmund, Hannover, Hamburg and Frankfurt. But the highest number of covered seats is in the smallest stadium. In the Westphalia Stadium, which will not be ready until the spring 1974, of the 53,790 places, nearly 50,000 will be situated under the roofs of the four stands in this unique stadium only used for football.

Capacity

The capacity of the World Cup Stadia is as follows (in order of size):

	Total	Sit.	Stand.
Olympiastadion Berlin	87,574	62,896	24,678
Olympiastadion München	75,334	45,334	30,000
Neckarstadion Stuttgart	73,058	35,398	37,660
Parkstadion Gelsenkirchen	69,971	35,887	34,084
Rheinstadion Düsseldorf	67,861	31,761	36,100
Waldstadion Frankfurt	62,480	29,480	33,000
Volksparkstadion Hamburg	60,341	27,541	32,800
Niedersachsen-stadion, Hannover	60,050	40,328	19,722
Westfalenstadion Dortmund	53,790	16,430	37,360

Supermac plans his comeback

by ERIC THORNTON

EVERYBODY knows that one man never makes a team, and is unlikely ever to do so, though it has to be admitted that occasionally outstanding players have almost carried the rest on their back.

It's not a difficult exercise to recall a few. Arsenal first. Their great teams of the fifties boasted such as Laurie Scott, Wally Barnes, Alec Forbes, Jimmy Logie, Doug Lishman, and the Comptons. But the dynamo was Joe Mercer.

Promised

Another great skipper of the past was Sam Cowan, the halfback who promised King George V, after losing the 1933 final, that he'd be back to win it in twelve months, and did just that at Portsmouth's expense.

Then there was the legendary Dixie Dean, whose fantastic goal scoring for Everton stole all the limelight from Ted Sagar, Willie Cook, Warney Cresswell, Cliff Britton, Albert Geldard, and Jimmy Stein.

Now today, in that north-east corner of England, where it used to be said they just whistled down pits for starlets to come up, Newcastle United, a club which has had more than its fair share of personalities, is eagerly discussing the long-awaited return of a player whom they were backing to take them to the next championship.

Finishers

Supermac, he's tagged. And with good reason, too. Because this product of Kent non-League soccer has developed into one of the greatest finishers even Tynesiders with elephantine memories can remember.

Nobody paid much attention when young Malcolm Macdonald turned his broad back on Tonbridge and the Southern League to try his luck as a full time professional. Yet very soon the cash-happy folk were sitting up and taking notice.

That was when Joe Harvey, of the long experience, decided on a motorway trip to Bedfordshire, liked what he saw at Luton's condensed Kenilworth Road ground, and arranged for a one-way ticket at a cost of £175,000.

There were doubters, of course. There always are. But Harvey, reared in a school which taught the value of facing criticism, stood firm, quietly confident in the wisdom of an expensive purchase.

It was a tough debut. Every Dad and his son went to watch. Having heard the roll of drums from Gallowgate, personal assessments were needed. They were all ready to leave early. But, instead, stayed on and cheered him off.

Hat-trick

For the sporting subject of that particular week had won them over the best way. A first-day hat-trick at St. James' had completely wiped away any lingering doubts. He was the new hero.

Since then, Supermac, the performer of flair and colour, has had them talking once more of great predecessors in the art of scoring. Such as Hughie Gallacher and Jackie Milburn.

Even to be included in the same breath is an achievement for anyone. Supermac knows that. Which is why he says, with one eye on an England spot, that if the goals start coming again nobody will be able to ignore his cup claims.

Before going in for the cartilage operation the boyo said: "Put a few quid on Newcastle to win something this winter." But the surgeon's knife spoiled the betting odds nearing the turn of the year.

Now, Supermac is getting those posts in his sights once again, the fans are gleefully rubbing their hands in anticipation. . . .

Malcolm Macdonald of Newcastle United.

ARARAT EREVA COMPLETE TH 'DOUBLE'

One of the greatest names in Russian football, Lev Yashin.

ARARAT EREVAN, a provincial club from the deep South, has completed the coveted Cup and League "double" in Russia. Thus, after the Ukrainians, in the shape of Dynamo Kiev, who broke the monopoly of the leading Moscow clubs in the 'sixties, now the Armenians have followed suit. The Russian season runs from spring till the autumn, and so Ararat will have to wait until next September before they can represent their country in the European Cup for the first time.

The name of this club is derived from the mountain—the Mount Ararat—which incidentally is mentioned in the Bible. This peak towers above the city of Erevan, which has a population of over 700,000 and is the capital of the Soviet Republic of Armenia. Ararat play in the modern "Rasdan" stadium which holds over 70,000 spectators. This term, the team drew to their 15 home League games a record total of 855,000 fans, for an average of 57,000 per match! And this must surely be the highest attendance ratio in Europe.

Released

Ararat was founded in 1937, gained promotion first in 1949 and has remained since 1966 in the Soviet Union's First Division. The man who contributed most towards their current run of success was Nikolai Glebov (51), a former national coach, who released the team from its indifferent tactical approach and instead put the accent firmly on attacking style of play.

In 1971 Ararat became runners-up and in 1972 they finished fourth, in the 16-team League.

In 1972 Ararat took part for the first time in a European competition—the UEFA Cup. It was immediately obvious that the Ararat team lacked international experience and after defeating EPA Larnaca of Cyprus by 1-0 (a) and 1-0 (h), then Grasshoppers Zurich by 3-1 (a) and 4-2 (h), the Armenians fell to Germany's Kaiserslautern, but only after a decisive penalty contest.

The scores in both legs were identical: 2-0 to Ararat at home and 0-2 away. Nikolai Glebov has since left and at the start of this season Ararat have been

VAN THE

Arthur Rotmil spotlights the club that has made Armenia the soccer capital of the USSR

managed by, perhaps, the finest player the province of Armenia has ever produced—Nikita Simonjan.

He, in fact, is the most prolific goal-getter in Russia's history with 154 goals to his credit. Simonjan spent most of his playing career with Spartak Moscow, gaining four championship medals, plus an Olympic gold medal in Melbourne in 1956. He ranks as one of the greatest Russian players alongside such stars as Yashin or Netto.

As a manager he led Spartak to two championship titles. It was Simonjan who gave Ararat the last ounce of polish and composure. Today Erevan has become the soccer capital of the Soviet Union. After all, the "double" used to be a feat almost reserved for the giants from Moscow. Spartak achieved it three times, the Army team ZSKA twice, Dynamo and Torpedo once each and, as the only previous successful "provincials", Dynamo Kiev once in 1966.

Emerged

And Ararat, in fact, hold a remarkable "jinx" over the Moscow teams. In the last three years, and in 13 matches, the Armenians have never been beaten on any of Moscow's grounds! They emerged proudly from all their encounters with Spartak, Dynamo, ZSKA, Torpedo and Lokomotiv! No wonder that the Russian fans are calling Ararat "the champions of Moscow"!

Their Cup triumph was, of course, also achieved in Moscow, where all Russian Cup finals are normally played. In this they faced their old adversaries, Dynamo Kiev. Only once before, 19 years ago, did Ararat manage to reach the final which they lost by 1-2 to . . . Kiev!

They certainly turned the tables this time. Before a crowd of over 60,000, Ararat won by 2-1 after extra time. It was the greatest success in the history of the club, coming three weeks before they clinched the League championship. Once again the Armenians confirmed their technical skill and team work, but above all their tremendous fighting spirit.

Until two minutes from time Kiev led 1-0 thanks to a penalty converted by Kolotov. It was then that Kiev had made a grave tactical blunder by substituting two forwards with two defenders, in an effort to play safe. Ararat on the other hand sent on two forwards Pogosov and Kasarjan, to replace two defenders. In the 89th minute the international winger Levon Ischtojan equalised and in the 13th minute of extra time the same player hit the winner for Ararat!

The ground work, the foundations, to the build up of this successful side were laid way back in the 'sixties by coaches like Faljan, Ponomarjev and Glebov. The couple of seasons which Alexander Ponomarjev spent here, before taking charge of Russia's Olympic team and later the full national squad, were particularly fruitful.

Glebov took over a modern club which fostered the development of talented youngsters and has even organised a soccer school for juniors. Glebov found a capable assistant in Arutjun Kegejan, another former international who spent one season with Spartak Moscow and who also hails from Armenia.

Youngsters

The people in this part of the country are temperamentally different to the northern Russians. They are hotblooded, more expressive and almost like Latins and prefer improvisation to drilled, stereotyped systems of play. Nearly all Armenian youngsters would rather be forwards than defenders. But those ambitions were also indirectly responsible for Ararat's lack of success in the past.

Too much individualism and flamboyancy, but not enough organisation or awareness of tactics, has prevented the club from achieving better results earlier. Nikolai Glebov changed the whole attitude toward competitive football, within the Armenian set up. On the day of his appointment Glebov told the Press: "I have been looking for just such a collection of players who have flair and are willing to express their talents, but who only need to learn about tactics and some methods to become a great team. I have watched Ararat for a long time and when the offer of management came my way I didn't hesitate for a moment. Ararat have always impressed me with their attacking style and their creative ability."

Glebov has modernised the style of this side which has always played a type of football free from self imposed restrictions and quite different from that normally associated with well drilled but stodgy Russian teams. He introduced a flexible 4-3-3, which in away matches often becomes a 4-4-2, but invariably with emphasis on attack. And that is why their midfield men usually score more goals than their strikers!

Another of Glebov's sound ideas was to stick to the same team and persevere even after occasional failures, with players of proven ability. He was rewarded with instant success; the team finished runners up in the 1971 season.

But the man currently celebrated in Erevan is the new boss Simonjan, who claims the credit for the brilliant "double". He acknowledges the part his psychological influence on the team has had, but he also pays generous tribute to his predecessors, who laid the basis of the present strength of the club.

"Ararat's success is a logical result of the steady development over the years. The team has now acquired maturity. We had our doubts whether we could chase two trophies at the same time—or as we say in Russia, hold two melons in one hand. But the triumph in the Cup acted as an enormous spur and boosted our morale sky high," said Simonjan after the final match.

Indeed Ararat confirmed their resilience by gaining seven points from their last four League games, of which two were away from home. Simonjan praises his men who fulfilled his and their greatest dream. He can count on a highly dependable goalkeeper Abramjan (28), who is clearly following in the best traditions of fine Russian custodians (Yashin!).

Veteran

The defence is marshalled by the experienced Konovalenko (30), but the power of Ararat lies in midfield where Sanasanjan (27), Pogosov (24) and Bondarenko (25), supply the ammunition for Kasarjan (26) and Ischtojan (26), in attack, supported by the king pins Andriassijan (26) and the wily veteran Markarov (31).

Of these stars three men won the Olympic Games bronze medals in Munich last year: Arkadi Andriassijan, Organes Sanasanjan and Lewon Ischtojan. As is customary in Russia, the champion team and other clubs who have distinguished themselves during the season have been showered with special prizes.

These are awarded annually by the Sports Council and the Football Association of the Soviet Union, as well as by a number of newspapers. Ararat were thus honoured for scoring most goals (52 in 30 matches), for the best goal average (52-26), and for the greatest number of wins by a margin of three goals or more (6). In addition, for gaining 16 points from 15 away games Ararat were named "the most aggressive visitors"!

BRAZIL WILL NOT BE A REAL THREAT

An interview with Paul Van Himst (Belgium)

QUESTION: Your country's elimination from the World Cup has been termed by many people as extremely unlucky. What were your feelings after the referee had blown the final whistle in the match against Holland?

ANSWER: I can hardly describe how disappointed I was. After all, we had not lost one of our World Cup matches, yet we were still eliminated on the goal difference rule. In my view this method is totally unfair—if two countries finish their matches with the same number of points, then they should play-off on a neutral ground.

Don't you think Belgium were too pre-occupied with defence during the Dutch match, considering that they knew they had to win in order to qualify?

No, not at all. We felt that if we adopted a "Leeds United" type of approach, in other words quickly breaking from defence to attack, it would surprise the Dutch who were obviously intent on only playing for a draw, which was all they needed.

Your success as a footballer has been phenomenal. At sixteen you made your League debut, and within twelve months you had played three times for Belgium, and been elected the 1960 Footballer of the Year, an award you were to win again the following year. Did this early fame affect you at all?

Yes, it did. A great many pressmen, not only in Belgium, but also throughout the world, were hailing me as the new Rik Coppens. And I found it more than difficult to live up to the reputation of Belgium's greatest-ever goal-scoring forward.

In 1967 and 1968, together with your colleagues from Anderlecht, you declined to play for Belgium. And after the Mexico World Cup, in which you were widely criticised for Belgium's poor showing, you declared openly that you would never play for your country again. Why did you change your mind?

At the time, I felt extremely bitter about our treatment in Mexico. The team felt that they had been robbed of a World Cup quarter-final place during our match with the host nation, when the most biased referee I had ever witnessed, awarded a penalty to the Mexicans, obviously fearing the fans' reaction if he had not pointed to the penalty-spot. And if it hadn't been for Louis Wouters, Chairman of the Belgian F.A., I would have stuck to my original decision.

A few months ago, your name hit the headlines throughout Belgium, when it was learned that you were thinking seriously of leaving Anderlecht.

Frankly I don't really know what all the fuss was about. It is true that I have had a few misunderstandings with the club management, but never at any time did I send in a transfer request. I have been with Anderlecht since the age of 9, when Constant Vanden Stock signed me. And after all these years I would find it extremely difficult to change clubs.

Unlike so many international stars, success has not gone to your head. . . .

I don't like showing off. Big cars and such like don't appeal to me at all. One of my greatest enjoyments is cycling, and every day I arrive for training on my bicycle. I find it an excellent way of keeping fit.

Do you consider Holland to be a threat to the World Cup holders?

I don't think the Brazilians will be a real threat to the leading European countries. After all, look what happened to them in England in 1966! As for Holland, they definitely have enough talented players. But on the whole they have never been able to reproduce their best form at international level. Frankly, I think both West Germany and Italy have much more chance of winning the Cup than the Dutch.

Action from the Holland-Belgium match.

Personal Opinion . . . . . by LESLIE VERNON

Heighway, Davies and a simple game

I HAVE often castigated the popular papers in this column for trivialising and sensationalising football. This is an aspect of our profession which largely depends on editorial policy, and in the constant search for a scoop, wishful thinking or pure speculation might create a story, which in fact has no foundation whatsoever.

But it is equally harmful and perhaps even more damaging for the image of the game, if it is viewed as a complex intellectual exercise. Currently, Hunter Davies is the chief flag-bearer of this totally fallacious trend, and some of his activities are quite unreasonable, not to say despicable.

He is the gentleman who spent a year with Tottenham Hotspur and then repaid their hospitality by writing a book in which he insulted practically everybody connected with the club. From the Olympian height of his own great intellect, Davies, who is undoubtedly an excellent journalist, can describe the reading of a newspaper or the playing of cards during a train journey, as a significant act.

My understanding of the book was that in the writers warped opinion, star players are ruthlessly exploited by football. Not by the clubs, not by the managers, but by the game itself! This fiendish plot appears in the disguise of giving the players too much material wealth without the necessary education in how to handle their money or their position as pop idols.

Detached

In Hunter's world, a pro-footballer marries a typist, reads the "Sun", is not interested in the arts, politics, space travel or any other remotely serious topic.

He lives in a smart detached house, in a smart detached district, where nobody talks to him or his wife except the milkman. He has two of everything — cars, children, hobbies etc. But he cannot really enjoy all these signs of affluence, because the pressures are enormous and his career is a short one.

After a mere fifteen years at the top, the club ruthlessly chucks him on the scrapheap with perhaps a derisory reward of £20,000 earned from a benefit year, or a similar amount collected under the proverbial table from a club in the lower division—his last resting place.

This is offered to us by Mr. Davies with deadpan seriousness, and one can almost hear the crocodile tears dropping on the wall-to-wall carpets.

Firstly, I feel sure that there are a few million youngsters who would love to be exploited this way. But they become plumbers, lorry drivers, T.V. mechanics, football journalists, and still marry typists, read the "Sun", and can't tell Yehudi Menuhin from Moishe Dayan.

Fortunately—according to H.D.—most of us do not have to put up with the weekly 90 minutes nightmare of kicking a ball around, and are not saddled with the worry of what to do with the thousands of pounds we collect for merely moving from one job to another.

Secondly, modern footballers are not the simpletons Davies makes them out to be. Most of them are far more sophisticated than their cloth-capped predecessors in the bygone golden age, and they know exactly how to use their money (and their household names) to the best advantage.

I can assure Mr. Davies that the likes of Derek Dougan, Terry Venables, Rodney Marsh, Dave Webb and a few hundred others, understand life much better than he does. They do not intellectualise football, they merely play it, love it, and make a very good living out of it. And as far as "exploitation" is concerned, Hunter Davies ought to talk to some managers (if they are silly enough to talk to him!) and he would get quite a different idea of who is exploiting whom or what.

But our probing Mr. Davies didn't stop interfering with our national game by just writing a book. He actually reported a match recently, (Brighton v. Bristol R.) and had a lengthy interview with Steve Heighway, both in the same issue of the "Sunday Times".

In his thoroughly disreputable match report, he made some totally unwarranted and unfair remarks about club directors in general, and advised Brian Clough to stick to television work, using a certain word I would not care to repeat here for a family audience.

Cloughy or his solicitor can take care of the matter, but I feel obliged to defend the directors. Many of them work hard in the best interests of the game, and without their help, football would be in an even sorrier state than it is today.

The Heighway interview was a typical piece of Hunterdaviesism. Here is poor Steve with his loving wife, ready to settle for the noble life of a provincial schoolteacher. Then the nasty siren of fame and fortune dressed in all-red appears from the dark, and lures Steve into the bright lights. He fights hard for his freedom, even goes as far as reading a book on the couch instead of playing cards! But, as we all learned from Uncle Brecht, environment corrupts.

Only a couple of seasons pass by, and the latest work of Voltaire is tossed into the corner, and well-educated Steve is actually mixing with the others, chewing gum, swilling Coca-Cola! Such utter corruption saddens the soul, but as Heighway says: "The money is marvellous, we could have never afforded this house, this car, this washing machine, this television set, this food-mixer, these curtains, this wallpaper on a teacher's pay."

Of course, Steve says, he deserves every penny, because the pressures are quite fantastic. The manager, the fans, even the Press, expect him to play well—the greedy, unthinking beasts!

Heighway nurtures nothing but contempt for football writers. "I never read them. They write so much rubbish.

Even the most inexperienced writers—like myself— a mere 30 odd (some very odd) years—can tell you, Steve, that football is a simple game. The object of the exercise is passing the ball to your colleague and scoring more goals than the opposition. If you pass the ball to an opponent, that is a bad pass. If you cannot score a goal from five yards, it is a bad shot. If you can't control the ball, you are a poor craftsman.

Simple isn't it? What is there to understand? Does it need an Einstein to figure out that the four goals scored by Red Star represents a winning margin over the two scored by Liverpool? In any case, how can anyone criticise the quality of reporting without reading the articles?

So much for Hunter Davies, a clever writer, but posturing as an expert on a subject he obviously knows very little about. If this is high-brow, quality journalism, pass me the "News of the World" and the "Sun"—I am well qualified, I married a typist sixteen years ago!

KEIR RADNEDGE present

LOKOMO GREATL

TWO years have passed since Wolves last played in East Germany in the UEFA Cup, but in that time—as Bill McGarry's men found to their cost—the morale of players, spectators and officials in the former Russian Zone has undergone a transformation.

For the first time East Germany have reached the World Cup finals—and this position of strength has given the clubs a much-needed injection of confidence.

Among the first casualties were Juventus, champions of Italy and runners-up to Ajax in Europe last season, who were knocked out of the Champions' Cup by Dynamo Dresden.

And though doubting Thomases may claim that Dresden owed their success to the fact that the Italian League had yet to begin, to the East Germans only the achievement was of importance and delight in it has hardly been scotched by Dresden's ensuing defeat against Bayern.

Wolves, whatever their form in England this season, have a reputation which stretches far beyond this country and when they travelled to East Germany recently to face 1st FC Lokomotive Leipzig, their opponents were well aware that to eliminate one of the leading challengers in the UEFA Cup would be another feather in the East German cap.

And a handsome victory it was: 3-0 victory in Leipzig, 4-1 defeat at Molineux—a victory on the away goals rule and a meeting in the next round with Fortuna Düsseldorf.

Leipzig, best known as a centre of learning in the past and for its trade fairs nowadays, was one of the cities to take part in the original Inter-Cities Fairs Cup of 1955-58. It was represented by an amalgam of its senior (and post-war) clubs, Lokomotive and Chemie BSG.

LOKOMOTIVE LEIPZIG

Stadium: Bruno-Plache-Stadion (45,000 capacity); shared with Chemie Leipzig. Important games in Sportforum (100,000, all seated). **Chairman:** Horst Kühn. **Trainer:** Horst Scherbaum, aged 48. Five caps for E. Germany as wing half; took Karl-Marx-Stadt to championship in 1967. Joined Lokomotive from Sachsenring Zwickau 1971. **Assistant trainer:** Karl Zimmermann, aged 55. **Manager:** Karl-Heinz Purrucker, aged 49. **Captain:** Peter Geissner. **Doctor:** Dr. Theo Barth, aged 52. **Masseur:** Helmut Burckhardt, aged 55.

Trainers in last ten years: 1963-5, Rudolf Krause; 1965-6, Günter Konzack; 1966-9, Hans Studener (dismissed after relegation); 1969-71, Kurte Holke and Manfred Pfeifer.

This arrangement, notable for its persistent failure, continued until 1963-64 when Lokomotive took part in their own right.

Yet though they have entered the Fairs/UEFA Cups seven times the furthest they have ever reached was the quarter finals in 1966-7 when, after eliminating Benfica, they were beaten 1-0, 0-2 by Kilmarnock.

They were runners-up in the league that season. But the string of international failures, emphasised by the fact that neighbours Chemie have won the championship once, is especially perverse because in East Germany Lokomotive have a reputation as a "good cup team".

Division

They won the East German Cup in 1957, beating Empor Rostock 2-1, and were back in the final the next year, only to lose by a similar margin to SC Einheit Dresden.

In 1964 they lost 3-2 in the final to 1st FC Magdeburg and by 4-2 in 1970 to Vorwärts Berlin (now Frankfurt-an-der-Oder) and not to be confused with second division Vorwärts Leipzig.

Last season, after beating Hans-Jürgen Kreische's Dynamo Dresden in the quarter finals and then Dynamo East Berlin, they went down again in the

HEIGHWAY ATTACKS THE SOCCER PRESS

Brian Glanville replies

● *Continued from page 11*

Ramsey's attitude is completely invalidated by his failure. If criticism of his methods were unjustified then, by definition, his teams would always succeed. Alas, not only have they not always succeeded, but they have now become the first England side ever to fail to reach the World Cup Finals.

I said at the time, and say again, that the errors made by Ramsey in such matches as the quarter-final of the 1970 World Cup, the Nations Cup quarter final at Wembley against West Germany, the World Cup qualifying game in Katowice, were so gross and elementary as to be absurd.

Expertise has its own Nemesis; can end by strangling itself. Look at the 1973 European Cup Final, when Vycpalek, the Juventus manager, put out a strange team motivated by his obsession with the attacking Ajax full-backs!

Critics of soccer do not pretend to have the technical depth and knowledge of a coach, the intimate, harsh experience of a player. Their function, indeed, depends upon their very detachment. I could not begin to manage a Southern League side, let alone an England team, yet I would not have put out against West Germany, and Netzer, an England eleven without a recognised wing-half.

It is sad to see Heighway espousing the Puritanical (Cromwellian?) attitudes of Sir Alf, insisting that reporters have no business to amuse or entertain. Let him turn to Bernard Shaw's drama reviews, to Cardus' cricket reports, and think again. Many of those plays, those matches, would long ago have been consigned to Limbo had they not been amusingly and yes, entertainingly, commemorated by these critics. What is football that it should be the province only of the functional and the austere?

s a club focus of an enterprising East German club

TIVE LEIPZIG
Y IMPROVED

final to Magdeburg—and, as in 1964, the score was again 3-2.

The team's strength has always been its forward line, and of the forwards in the first Lokomotive side to meet an English one—Leeds in 1965—only two remain.

One is the most experienced man in the team—Henning Frenzel. He played at inside right for East Germany in the first international between that country and England in Leipzig in 1963, when the visitors won 2-1.

Succession

At that time he was known only as a goalscorer, and in 1966 was top scorer in the 14-team league with 22 goals, when Lokomotive finished third for the second season in succession.

But now, with more than 400 goals to his credit, including the first in this year's cup final, Frenzel spends most of his time in midfield, making chances for others.

And one of the "others" is the other forward survivor from 1965—Wolfram Löwe, 30 times an international.

Löwe, like skipper and stopper Peter Giessner, missed the cup final after his third caution of the season and an automatic suspension in a league game only three days before.

But he scored three of Lokomotive's four goals in the 4-2 aggregate win over Italy's AC Torino in the first round of the UEFA Cup, and played a major role in East Germany's important World Cup win over Rumania recently. Also he scored that vital goal at Molineux which allowed Leipzig to go into the next round of the UEFA Cup on the away goal (s).

The match against Rumania was played in the 100,000-capacity national stadium—the Sportsforum in Leipzig—and East German team manager Georg Buschner took the opportunity of giving a first cap to another Lokomotive player—21-year-old Joachim Fritsche.

Resembles

Once an outside left, Fritsche now wears the No. 5 shirt. But his position is left back and he resembles his West German counterpart Paul Breitner in his love of attack. He gave Rumanian goalkeeper Radacanu some anxious moments.

One man who didn't make the national team then, was the spearhead of the Lokomotive attack, Hans-Bert Matoul.

A new signing last season, he was also Lokomotive's top scorer with 14 goals at the end of a season which saw the club the only first division side to have three men reach double figures. The others were Löwe (12) and Frenzel (10).

In defence the pillar is Giessner, who has played more than 500 times for Leipzig. And the acrobatic Werner Friese in goal looks a worthy successor to Kurt Weigang, who played 12 times for East Germany between 1962 and 1968 and was Footballer of the Year in 1965.

Results

Lokomotive have some remarkable league results behind them this season. They won 5-1 away to Hansa Tostock with Matoul getting four, and then he hit five when Lokomotive made league history with a record 7-0 away win against Energie Cottbus.

Two years ago they were eighth, last season fourth, and now they are challenging the leaders.

Yet they are not as highly rated as Dresden or Carl Zeiss Jena; all the more important then that they take full advantage of the opportunities presented in such competitions in the UEFA Cup.

PLAYERS	Born	Trade	Signed	Caps
Goal: Werner Friese	30.3.46	Engineer	1968	10 Jun
Joachim Niklasch	12.1.53	Electrician	1968	1 Jun
Defence: Joachim Fritshe	28.10.51	Slater	1968	3A, 19 Jun, 10 Yth
Peter Giessner	12.9.41	Teacher	1966	2B, 11 Yth
Wilfried Gröbner	18.12.49	Student	1967	10 Jun
Gunter Sekora	3.10.50	Labourer	1967	10 Jun
Manfred Geisler	3.3.41	Economist	1966	15A, 8 Olm, 2 Jun, 7 Yth
Roland Hammer	24.12.52	Mechanic	1967	1 Yth
Midfield: Henning Frenzel	3.5.42	Bricklayer	1960	56A (18 goals), 7B, 9 Olm
Wolfgang Altmann	22.9.52	Student	1971	5 Jun, 14 Yth
Lutz Moldt	19.9.52	Electrician	1969	4 Jun
Eberhard Köditz	28.8.46	Electrician	1966	
Hans-Jürgen Naumann	1.4.44	Mechanic	1966	1A, 2B, 2 Olm, 12 Jun, 7 Yth
Rainer Lisiewicz	6.10.49	Teacher	1968	
Attack: Wolfram Löwe	14.5.45	Electrician	1962	30A (10 goals), 1B, 4 Olm, 10 Jun, 1 Yth
Hans-Bert Matoul	2.6.45	Confectioner	1971	
Manfred Kupfer	7.11.48	Turner	1967	2 Jun
Manfred Zaspel	11.8.48	Electrician	1971	
Edgar Moosdorf	21.5.48	Plumber	1970	

(A = full intl; B = B intl; Olm = Olympic appt; Jun = under 23 (under 21, etc.).

WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY.

A CROWD of 25,000 roared Haiti to a 3-0 victory over a demoralised Netherlands Antilles in their World Cup qualifying match in Port-au-Prince. The other nations in the group qualifying tournament are Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

Emmanuel Sannon grabbed two goals for Haiti, one in each half, and centre-forward Jean-Claude Desire slammed in the other. Sannon's goals came in the 25th and 62nd minutes.

In another qualifying match, Honduras beat Trinidad and Tobago 2-1. Honduras took the lead in the 33rd minute when Guifarro deflected a pass into the net. A few minutes later Trinidad and Tobago had a goal disallowed.

Honduras went two up after 51 minutes through Hernandez. David pulled one back for Trinidad but they were unable to salvage the match.

Brazilian forward Cosme da Silva Campos, 20, has been suspended for 60 days after a urine test indicated he was doped during a first division match. The Brazilian Sports Federation (CBD) applied the suspension pending an inquiry into claims by the player and his club, Atletico Mineiro, that he had been given medicine by the club doctor to ease the pain from two teeth broken in a previous match.

Campos, one of Brazil's most promising players, scored the two goals that gave his side a 2-1 win over Vasco de Gama. After the match Campos was selected as one of two players to undergo dope tests. The test showed the presence of the drug ephedrine, considered under Brazilian Sport's Regulations as a stimulant.

The 1974 European Cup Final will be staged in the Heysel Stadium in Brussels on May 15. Rotterdam's Feyenoord Stadium will stage the Cup Winners Cup Final on May 8.

The European Cup Final has been staged twice before in Brussels, in 1958 and 1966, and Rotterdam has also been the site of two Cup Winners Cup Finals, in 1963 and 1968.

There is no possibility of any club gaining a home advantage. The Belgian champions, FC Bruges, have already been eliminated from the European Cup, and the Dutch Cup holders, NAC Breda, are out of the Cup Winners Cup.

Quote of the month, by Newcastle manager Joe Harvey. He was commenting on the incident that led to Birmingham full back Tony Want being stretchered off with a broken leg after a tackle by Newcastle's Jim Smith. Said Mr. Harvey: "Want appeared to fall into Smith's foot. That is all there is to it."

The referee didn't agree. He sent Smith off for a tackle that millions of tele-viewers must have condemned, too.

England may be out of the 1974 World Cup, but there is no shortage of demand for British players on the Continent, and especially in France. This is a discovery made by a Belgian organisation called "Better Football", which has hit on the idea of promoting the export of British players to Continental clubs.

"Better Football" launched its scheme recently by placing an advertisement in a well-known

SCOTS SAY 'NO'

COLIN McALPIN reports from Northern Ireland

THERE can no longer be the suggestion of friendship between the gutless Scottish Football Association and the Irish Football Association. That much is clear from the recent indication from Glasgow that the S.F.A. is still unwilling to resume visits to Windsor Park for the British Championship games.

They are due to meet Northern Ireland in May but already have hinted that there is no question of the team coming: "A dangerous situation still exists and we have a duty to clubs not to place their players in jeopardy."

The Scots, quite simply, have no case. It was they who started the rot two seasons ago when they refused to meet their obligations and were followed by England, Wales and several other European countries who saw in the "ban" an easy way of picking up World Cup points.

The Scots, to their discredit, have continued to emphasise the so-called dangers of playing Northern Ireland in Belfast, even when it became increasingly obvious that they had no justification in doing so.

The facts, especially this season, are against the Scots and just about anybody else who still holds to the now-tattered argument that they cannot play here.

Dinamo Bucharest of Rumania played Crusaders at Windsor Park in the European Cup, Chimea Rimnicu Valcea of Rumania and Brann Bergen of Norway played Glentoran at the Oval in the Cup Winners' Cup, Standard Liege of Belgium played Ards at Castlereagh Park in the E.U.F.A. Cup, Canada played the Irish League at Windsor Park, in rugby Argentina and New Zealand have been to Belfast and in other sports the world beats a safe path to Northern Ireland . . . there's just no answer to that, eh Scotland?

A colleague suggested recently that it was time the whole matter was thrashed out publicly in Scotland for it does seem as if a couple of ill-informed officials are making decisions they appear unable to justify.

And, nearer home, it is time a more effective PR job was done for local football by our own officials. They, too, are as much to blame for not really, or with heart, putting forward a strong case. It is next to useless them working quietly behind the scenes, as they claim to be, to restore full confidence in playing in the Province.

They no longer need to work quietly, they should enlist the willing assistance of those who have already been here—indeed Dinamo were so impressed at the reception Crusaders gave them that they are to ask their national team to arrange a friendly in Belfast.

Irish F.A. officials must forget about their lofty positions in F.I.F.A. and E.U.F.A. and get down to working for the good of the game in Northern Ireland . . . and that means shouting from the rooftops that is PERFECTLY SAFE for clubs and countries to play in Belfast.

..WORLD SOCCER DIARY...

A souvenir seller in Amsterdam before Holland's match with Belgium. No doubt he will be in West Germany for the finals following Holland's qualification.

French sports paper, announcing that "excellent British footballers" were keen to play in France. In less than a fortnight, some 20 French clubs wrote to the organisation expressing interest in acquiring new talent from the other side of the Channel.

Strikers

Mr. Yvan Harvey, General Manager of the Sales Promotions firm which runs "Better Football", said that most of the French clubs wanted strikers to improve their goal-scoring capabilities. His contact in England, a Belgian who lived there for more than 20 years, is now tracking down suitable players to present to goal-hungry French clubs.

The British contact is scouting for players throughout Britain, including the First Division, although Mr. Harvey does not expect to tempt any top-flight stars at the moment. Transfer fees have not yet been decided. Mr. Harvey said that the motive for starting the scheme was the feeling that many British players would like to play for Continental clubs but did not know how to set about finding a club.

The Belgian organisation also thinks that Continental clubs will be interested in obtaining the services of British players with their experience and depth of knowledge of their national sport.

Exported

Countries such as Denmark have successfully exported their players to other European countries and, Mr. Harvey sees no reason why Britain should not do so. For the moment, the scheme applies only to France, but he said he planned to extend the idea to Belgium as well. "What we want is players with the British trade mark," he said.

Full World Cup details next month

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JOHN SPARROW reports from Holland

Ajax miss Cruyff and lose to CSKA

QUITE a month November. The Netherlands through to the final rounds of the World Cup in Germany: Ajax out of the European Cup.

For lovers of statistics, the orange shirts of the Dutch go on to the World Cup finals for the first time since 1938. As for Ajax, their ousting means this year's European Cup Final will not feature a Dutch eleven for the first time since 1969.

The story of Ajax was simple—without Johan Cruyff up front the fire power was dismally lacking. The fact was so clearly demonstrated when Ajax crept to a pathetic 1-0 victory over CSKA Sophia in the first leg of the second round tie in Amsterdam. Just to emphasise it all, on the eve of the return—which Sophia won 2-0 after extra time—the Dutch side announced the acquisition of one Mr. Zoltan Varga.

Varga, a 29-year-old Hungarian, is by all accounts a talented forward. An ex-Hungarian international who played for his country in the Mexico World Cup, he cost an alleged £92,000 plus. If reports are correct, he was a little cheaper than Arno Steffenhagen, the other striker Ajax bought a few weeks before for £95,000!

Of course neither match the £160,000 Jan Mulder, the Anderlecht striker Ajax signed in 1972 in a record club payment. Troubled with a serious knee problem soon after he signed, he is presently trying to get back to form.

All of which is a way of saying Ajax are going to have a pile of money sitting on the reserve bench. With Cruyff going to Barcelona — not to mention winger Sjaak Swart retiring—the team was left in need of new front blood. The dilemma was whether to rebuild with youth or buy the talent. Ajax decided to buy.

The vital factor was time. Re-stocking the fish tank with imported material was an immediate solution and, after all, Ajax had £460,000 plus from the sale of Johan Cruyff.

Under ex-trainer Stefan Kovacs, the up-and-coming youth of the Dutch champions was put somewhat in the shadows. Current trainer George Knobel puts it this way: "We have a tremendous gap between the A team and the Ajax youth. We must reorganise completely so we can't expect much from the youth for two or three years."

According to Knobel nothing suitable was available in Holland: he had to buy abroad.

The two new players have crossed paths before; in club and courtroom. Messrs. Steffenhagen and Varga used to play for Hertha BSC, where both were involved in a Bundesliga bribery scandal.

Zoltan Varga has a chequered background. Back home in Hungary he played for Vasas and the national team. With Hungary he went to the Mexico World Cup but when the event ended Varga did a moonlight. Up he turned in Belgium and for a while looked like signing for Standard Liege.

Then the Hungarians put a suspension on him, stopping the move. Varga was eligible again in 1970 and he was signed by Hertha. And come the end of the season he was involved in the bribery scandal.

Suspension

The Hungarian was eventually given a two-year suspension by the German football authority, a suspension which was valid in most other countries. Not in Scotland however . . . the next stop for Varga. The club: Aberdeen.

Ajax signed him from there, but a day later came bad news from the KNVB, the Dutch football authority. Varga was still serving suspension, they wrote to the club. He could not play in the Netherlands while it lasted. Which meant the end of the season.

Henk Burgwal, KNVB secretary: "The KNVB said at the time of the scandal that the players involved would not be allowed to play in Holland as long as any suspension lasted. We still take this line."

Ajax boss, Jaap van Praag, did not agree. According to him the *Bundesliga* had stated Varga could play anywhere —except Germany. Van Praag said he would take the matter up with the KNVB, and, at the time of writing, the situation was unchanged.

Other news from Amsterdam: FC Amsterdam and De Volewijckers have merged. Or rather the professional side of De Volewijckers is to be swallowed up in FC Amsterdam.

Action from the Holland versus Belgium World Cup tie.

Prati and Riva—why not?

PIERINO PRATI was born at Cinisello Balsamo, a small suburban town in Italy, on December 13, 1946. He played for Milan's juniors in the early sixties, and in the 1965-66 season he was signed on loan by Salernitana where he did well. As a result of his fine performances, he was recalled by AC Milan in 1966, and made his first-team debut the following year.

Since then he has gained literally every international club honour. Undoubtedly his finest match was the 1969 European Cup Final against Ajax when he scored a spectacular hat-trick in Milan's 4-1 victory. In the same year he played a great part in the Italian side's convincing 4-2 aggregate win over Estudiantes de La Plata in the World Cup Championship. He has also been on the winning side in two European Cup Winners' Cup Finals—in 1968 and 1973.

A few months ago, Pierino's name made headlines throughout Italy when Roma bought him for L.622,000,000!

Interview conducted by Gregory Tesser

How does it feel to be one of the world's costliest players?

It doesn't worry me unduly, if that's what you mean. I won't become upset if I miss a chance near goal or send in a bad cross. When Roma signed me from AC Milan, and paid £415,000 for my services, it was they who decided upon the fee, not me!

The money paid for my transfer is fast becoming the norm for any top-class player in the Italian First Division. And anyway transfer fees have been so big in Italy for so many years that mine is nothing special. After all, when you think of the money Barcelona paid Ajax for Johan Cruyff, mine is comparatively modest.

Do you agree with your compatriot Luigi Riva when he said that the transfer market was getting out of hand?

Not really. In 1968 Juventus paid a then world record fee of £440,000 for Pierino Anastasi, and the media in general reacted in almost exactly the same kind of way as it did when my transfer was announced. And if you look through the soccer record books you will see that people have always expressed amazement at a large transfer fee. I think I am right in saying that the English Press made headline news of Alan Ball's transfer from Everton to Arsenal for £220,000, a sum which by Italian standards is modest.

But don't you think that one day some kind of limit will have to be placed on transfer fees?

No, I don't agree with that suggestion. Just so long as clubs are able to afford the immense transfer fees we are now becoming used to, then there is no reason why they should be prevented from spending their money how they like. Anyway with world-wide inflation as it is, a regular increase in transfer fees must be expected.

When did you decide that a move from AC Milan would be beneficial to your career?

Actually I pondered over the idea of a change of clubs for a couple of seasons. And when my transfer request was granted I was told that several clubs were interested in me, including our arch-rivals Inter Milan. But our directors were quick to inform me that I couldn't join another club in the North, so it became obvious to me that I had to sign for one of the Roman clubs. I chose Roma mainly because the players are allowed much more freedom than at some other Italian clubs, and I must admit I am extremely pleased I made this decision.

Although Italy defeated World Champions Brazil last summer, on the whole the critics have not been over-enthusiastic about your country's recent form.

Do you think Italy are still capable of doing well in Munich?

I am really and truly convinced that we can go one better than in 1970. Our players are much more experienced than 4 years ago, and even though I must agree with the journalists who criticised us in our qualifying matches with both Turkey and Switzerland, I still maintain that a side has to be good if it can play below its best form and still win quite convincingly. This is what Italy did in the away fixtures with both Turkey and Switzerland, yet still managed to finish top of their group. But apart from those two games, our recent form has, in my opinion, been very consistent, which must augur well for us in Munich.

At the age of 27 you have won just about every major honour in club football. Do you still have one ambition you would like to fulfil at club level?

To be honest, I am not the sort of footballer who looks back at past achievements and says, "Well, I've done all that, now I can relax." I treat every match as a new frontier I must cross. But I suppose my number one goal at the present time is to help Roma capture the Italian Championship, so that I can play again in the European Cup.

Talking of the European Cup, your most outstanding performance to date was in 1969 when you scored a hat-trick in the Final against Ajax. Given a chance, do you think you can better this goalscoring achievement in Munich?

I'd obviously like to, but whether I'll be a regular member of the Italian First XI in Germany remains to be seen. Although Luigi Riva occupies my position in the team at the present time, I don't see why room cannot be found for both of us. After all, nowadays when positions don't count for much, players are being selected purely and simply for their skill. And I'd like to think that my skill will be needed.

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KANGAROOS IN MUNICH BUT NO LIONS

WE have heard a great deal about how *poor a team Australia are, how deeply* unworthy of appearing in the World Cup Finals. M. Vital Loraux, the Belgian referee who took charge of their play-off against South Korea in Hong Kong, pronounced the standard of the game deplorable, not to be compared with that of the dramatic England-Poland game which he had so recently refereed at Wembley.

The Australians might be forgiven were they to feel embittered by such criticism. What, they might properly demand of their detractors, do you want of us? In 1966, we *were knocked out by the North Koreans,* 6-1 and 3-1, in the only match of the Afro-Asian group, and you said we were a push-over. North Korea came to England, beat Italy 1-0, and frightened the life out of the Portuguese, in the quarter-finals.

Well, we have beaten Iran, who beat North Korea, and we have beaten South Korea, who beat Israel. Kindly remember that in the 1970 World Cup, Israel stood up sturdily to such "great" powers as Italy, the eventual finalists, Uruguay and Sweden.

South Korea versus Australia.

We make no great claims, have no great *pretensions, but we humbly submit that we* have as much right to be in the Finals as North Korea and Israel, who were not disgraced. That England, Portugal, Hungary and Russia will not be among those present in West Germany is not our fault.

Indeed it is not. It is the fault of a ridiculous qualifying competition which should have been de-zoned years ago. When I spoke recently to the President of FIFA, Sir Stanley Rous, I was much encouraged to find him in total agreement with me. What he would like to see, though unfortunately he has not been able to persuade the World Cup committee to agree with him (so much for all those wild stories of his being a dictator!) is to follow the present eliminating tournament with a further qualifying stage. This would comprise 24 or 32 teams, which would produce either eight or sixteen finalists.

He is aware, as I am, of the counter argument which has so often been advanced: "They say if this is a World Cup and you want to develop football, make football more attractive, inspire people to play it all over the world, you shouldn't close any doors. I see that, but until there's a levelling up, it's necessary to get the strongest teams in the finals. I think that's very necessary from an economic point of view, too."

Petulance

This seemed to me especially significant, given that Sir Stanley has always been a great supporter and pioneer of football in the Third World, particularly in Africa. The Afro-Asians, alas, tend to behave with all the thick skinned petulance of countries recently emerged from colonialism. It will be recalled that the reason North Korea played off with Australia for the 1966 tournament was because all the other Afro-Asian countries walked out in a huff, insisting that they be given two qualifiers rather than one.

In 1970 they got them, which was fatuous. The invention of the jet plane has

LOOKING AT SOCCER • BRIAN GLANVILLE •

shrunk the world, and with it the World Cup. It no longer takes nearly three weeks to get from Europe to South America, a fact implicit in the absurd decision—again, no work of Rous—whereby Chile and Russia had to play off, after winning their respective groups.

I held no brief for the Russians and their petulant protests about playing in Santiago, which made themselves heard only after they had been held by Chile to a 0-0 draw in Moscow. Besides, for Soviet Russia, which has starved, tortured and murdered countless millions, to protest against executions in the Santiago Stadium was rich indeed. One does not have to have any sympathy for the brutal Chilean coup to feel the irony of that

The argument in favour of developing football in the underdeveloped footballing countries has validity; up to a point. It is, as Rous suggests, a question of your priorities, whether you want the World Cup as a genuine international competition, or as a kind of propaganda exercise. I would question whether there is really a choice to be made between the two, since the best propaganda, surely, is finally the presentation of the best teams playing the best football feasible.

Back door

Australia, however, may well prove the exception to the rule, so far as participation in the World Cup encouraging the native sport is concerned. It seems to have done nothing for North Korea, whose football has gone back rather than forward since 1966, little for football in Israel and Morocco, and not much for Mexico, forever slipping into World Cups by the back door of the feeble CONCACAF group.

There really does seem to be a great surge in Australian football, partly brought about, unquestionably, by the high level of immigration since the last war. What one hears about the enthusiasm shown for the successful World Cup team, the record audience for the television of the cliff hanging play-off, lead one to believe that soccer Down Under is at long last coming into its own, after Heaven knows how many decades of tours by foreign teams. I don't think the Australians have any right to be in West Germany, but I congratulate them and I hope they do well. Their achievement in getting there at all is already considerable.

Stones that the builder rejected . . . I always get a special satisfaction when I read of footballers who succeed after early discouragement and failure. How do Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers feel, now, about Tony Currie, whom they brusquely turned down when he was a junior? Do Arsenal ever shed a tear over Keith Weller, who once used to train with their youth players? Do Manchester City regret that they did not make more of an effort to hang on to Steve Heighway?

Tony Currie of Sheffield United.

The story of Graeme Crawford, the 21 year old York City goalkeeper who has had such remarkable success this season in keeping a clean slate, is especially germane and edifying. Or, from another point of view unedifying — when you consider how cruel and callous some professional clubs can be. It is a wonder that Crawford had the strength of will to carry on.

Reduced

Born in Falkirk, he played half-a-dozen League games for East Stirling, and was then signed by Sheffield United in season 1967/8. A couple of years ago, they had so lost faith in him that they wouldn't give him a game in *any* of their teams, so that he was reduced to playing park football. At the same time, they apparently wouldn't give him a free transfer, so that he had to go to the Independent Tribunal to get one.

As though this were not enough, they told him, he says: "You are never going to make a goalkeeper, son. You're wasting your time." York City's manager, Tom Johnston, was not of the same opinion. He came after Crawford, who was then told by United: "You can go, but you'd be better off calling it a day, packing your bags and going back to Scotland. It will save you looking foolish."

Or save *them* from looking foolish. Crawford might well have asked why, if he would never make a goalkeeper, had the club spent money on his transfer in the first place? It has all ended happily ever after, and I hope that one day Crawford has the chance to go back and play at Bramall Lane. If, after a particularly fine save, he makes a certain gesture towards the Sheffield United bench, perhaps he might, in all the circumstances, be excused.

Football is full of such cases, though they are not always quite so extreme. The phenomenon of the late developer seems, in particular, something the professional clubs cannot understand. Fearful and greedy, they want to get their hands on any talent that appears, regardless of the interests of its possessors.

Too often, stupid, selfish or ambitious parents abet them in these practices. Thus boys are encouraged to dream of success in football at the cost of their studies, their preparation for any other kind of trade. Many are called, pitifully few are chosen.

It is also becoming increasingly clear that to succeed, one does not necessarily have to become a full time apprentice at 15 or 16. We know of Hall and Heighway; now here is Tervor Whymark of Ipswich, who didn't turn professional till he was a ripe old 19. It doesn't seem to have harmed him.

Britain gets fair share

THE headline read: "Britain misses out again on Euro finals." The piece was what is known in the business as a "short"—just three paragraphs—lamenting the fact that Britain has no European finals this season.

No European finals that is, unless one of our teams reaches the EUFA Cup final—which, on past record, is quite likely.

What the headline was referring to was the fact that this season's European Champions' Cup final will be held in the Heysel stadium in Brussels. The three paragraphs below contained a veiled complaint that the Heysel would have this final for the third time.

The first occasion was in 1958—when Real Madrid beat Milan in what still stands as one of the most pulsating and exciting of all finals—and the second was in 1966, when Real beat Partizan Belgrade 2-1.

The Feyenoord stadium in Rotterdam also receives EUFA's blessing for the third time for the Cup Winners' Cup final. The first time saw Tottenham beat Atletico Madrid, and the second saw Milan beat Hamburger SX in 1968.

I have heard it whispered that Britain's chances of staging one of the two plums were scuppered by the reception the Wembley crowd gave the Polish team in the recent 1-1 tragedy.

But in fact, a glance at a table of the senior world competitions shows that Britain has been going very well for final matches.

— by KEIR RADNEDGE

The UEFA CUP.

The table here shows that England leads the list in a nation-by-nation summary of finals, with 17 matches followed by Spain on 15. If you add Scotland's quota to England's you have a grand total of 22 games—way out in front.

And England comes nearest to a full house—only missing out so far on the final of the European Championship. No doubt that will come in due course.

The argument about the crowd's behaviour patently does not stand up. For in 1966, at the Heysel stadium, Real were greeted by many Anderlecht fans with placards stating: "Partizan will beat Barberan's team"—a reference to the badly-refereed, bitterly-fought quarter final second leg in which Madrid beat Anderlecht 4-2.

Fine stadium

But why has Paris been forgotten? The new Parc des Princes is a fine stadium—50,000, all seated. The objection, presumably, is that it is too small. For example, the Heysel capacity is 70,000. But surely the French, who did so much to launch these competitions, could have been granted at least the Cup Winners' Cup final?

Lastly, just to put in perspective how much real interest European football still holds for the British fan and the media: those few paragraphs and that headline never saw the light of day. They were just one of the myriad small stories that find their way into metal but not into the page.

CITY BY CITY

City (Total)	World Cup	Euro Nat. Cp.	World Ch. Cp.	Champs Cup	C-Ws' Cup	Fairs/ EUFA Cup
Amsterdam (2)	—	—	1	1	—	—
Antwerp (1)	—	—	—	—	1+	—
Athens (2)	—	—	1	—	1*	—
Barcelona (6)	—	—	—	—	1	5
Basle (1)	—	—	—	—	1	—
Belgrade (1)	—	—	—	1	—	—
Berne (2)	1	—	—	1	—	—
Birmingham (2)	—	—	—	—	—	2
Brussels (5)	—	1	—	2	1	1
Budapest (2)	—	—	—	—	—	2
Florence (1)	—	—	—	—	1	—
Glasgow (5)	—	—	1	1	3	—
Leeds (3)	—	—	—	—	—	3
Lisbon (3)	—	—	2	1	—	—
Liverpool (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1
London (8)	1	—	—	3	1	3
Madrid (6)	—	1	3	2	—	—
Manchester (1)	—	—	1	—	—	—
Milan (6)	—	—	4	2	—	—
M'gladbach (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Newcastle (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nuremberg (1)	—	—	—	—	1	—
Paris (3)	1	1	—	1	—	—
Rome (4)	1	1*	1	—	—	1
Rotterdam (4)	—	—	1	1	2	—
Salonika (1)	—	—	—	—	1	—
Stockholm (1)	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stuttgart (2)	—	—	—	1	1+	—
Turin (2)	—	—	—	—	—	2
Valencia (2)	—	—	—	—	—	2
Vienna (2)	—	—	—	1	1	—
Wolverhampton (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Zagreb (2)	—	—	—	—	—	2
Zaragoza (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1

* and replay + replay

Fairs/EUFA Finals mostly two-leg matches

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

Austria 2; Belgium 6; England 17; France 3; Greece 3; Holland 6; Hungary 2; Italy 13; Portugal 3; Scotland 5; Spain 15; Sweden 1; Switzerland 3; West Germany 4; Yugoslavia 3.

N.B. Curiosity—Sweden's only match was the World Cup Final—in 1958.

CANADA BEAT HAITI BUT...

Buzz Parsons, who broke his leg playing for Canada against Haiti.

from Colin Jose

AFTER losing the first of a two game series against Haiti in Port-au-Prince by five goals to one, Canada quickly recovered to take the second game two days later by one goal to nil.

However, Canada's victory, which brought about a complete reversal of the first game, was not without its setback as centre forward Buzz Parsons, playing in his 23rd international for Canada, broke his right leg following a nasty tackle by Haitian defender Ernst Jean Joseph.

Haiti were three up in nine minutes in the first game through Sanon and Barthelemy (2). In the second half Sanon completed his hat trick, while Parsons scored for Canada.

Canadian officials were impressed with the Haitians in the first game and felt that on this showing they must stand an excellent chance of qualifying to represent the CONCACAF area in the World Cup next year.

Scheduled

But after Canada had won the second game far more comfortably than the score suggests they had second thoughts, but even so conceded that Haiti, playing on their own ground, would be very difficult to beat in the final tournament scheduled to begin on November 29.

Canada's winning goal in the second game was scored in the 58th minute by 21 year old Chris Bennett playing in his second full international. Bennett, who was born in London, England and came to Canada when he was six years old, hammered in a pass from Jim Douglas who beat four men before cutting the ball back from the goal line. One minute later Bennett scored again but the goal was disallowed by the Jamaican referee for no apparent reason.

The Canadians were coached for the first time by the Canadian Soccer Association's newly appointed Technical Director Eckhard Krautzen of West Germany.

Before the Canadians arrived in Haiti it had been the turn of the United States to play two games in Port-au-Prince. Playing under Gordon Bradley, coach of the New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League the U.S. lost both games by a 1-0 score.

Forwards

Included in the U.S. team were three players from the NASL champions Philadelphia Atoms, goalkeeper Bob Rigby, full back Bob Smith and midfielder Barry Barto. Also making the trip were Willie Roy of the St Louis Stars, Andy Ryzmarczuk of the Rochester Lancers and four players from the Cosmos, forwards Joe Fink and Jorge Siega and defenders Werner Roth and Barry Mahy. Mahy, who was born in England, played at one time for Scunthorpe United.

In preparing for the CONCACAF pre-World Cup Tournament Haiti had 25 players in their training camp including defender Wilner Nazaire specially released by the French Second Division club U.S. Valenciennes for the games.

The players were Goalkeepers: Henri Francillon (Victory), Wilner Piquant (Aigle Noir), Gerard Joseph (Racing Club Haitien); Defenders: Mario Leandre, Arsene Auguste (Racing Club Haitien), Serge Ducoste, Fritz Andre (Aigle Noir), Formose Gilles (Victory), Wilfrid Louis (Don Bosco de Petionville), Ernst Jean Joseph (Violette), Wilner Nazaire (U.S. Valenciennes); Midfield: Philippe Vorbe, Guy Francois, Pierre Bayonne (Violette), Jean Claud Desir (Aigle Noir), Joseph Obas (Racing), Wilfrid Gervais (Etoile Haitien), Serge Racine (Jamaica Italian—New York); Forwards: Claude Barthelemy, Fritz Leandre, Guy St Vil, Eddy Antoine (Racing Club), Emmanuel Sanon (Don Bosco de Pentionville), Roger St. Vil (Violette) and Ernst Racine (New York Greek Americans). Haiti are coached by Antoine Tassy.

Three of the Haitian players had experience in the NASL in 1968. Vorbe with the New York Generals, Barthelemy and Desir with the Detroit Cougars.

Canadian officials were impressed and felt that the Haitians had an excellent chance of qualifying

BURNLEY'S TWINS SHOW SPARKLE

by ERIC THORNTON

IT'S a funny world. That's how the F.A's "Honest John" McKenna always ended discussions in board-rooms between the wars. And that comment remains just as appropriate today as ever it was.

Especially when one applies it to a couple of youngsters who have just climbed onto the England band wagon, and seem set for a thrilling new career at international level —Martin Dobson and Paul Fletcher.

They could be regarded as soccer twins because their careers in the game have run almost parallel from the same starting point until adjoining pegs have now been claimed in the same dressing room.

First coming up against each other in Bolton's "kindergarten", they learned the arts and graces of the game in the mill town, then gradually blossomed with Burnley, at the other end of the valley.

That's the story in a nutshell. And it could be listed in any good boy's book because it teaches determination, ambition, and the value of keeping one's eyes trained on the stars.

Just a few years ago, neither fancied the odds very much, especially on being allowed to depart from Burnden Park, but the day they made the 19-mile trek north was the luckiest of their young lives.

Dobson, then coming up to 19, was given his cards by the Wanderers, and all those early dreams counted for nothing. He was an out-of-work centre-forward looking a cert for a job in his father's firm.

But Dad knew his son. He contacted the Turf Moor folk, reminded them of an earlier interest, and won a 14-day trial for the boy, a trial which was extended to 28 days, and ended with a contract.

These two knowledgeable types, Harry Potts and Jimmy Adamson watched, switched him to midfield, and began moulding a cultured wing-half so well that today he's an inspiration, to a team which is among the runners for this year's title.

These are happy days for the 25-year-old think tank, especially when he looks back and recollects the time when he was a football reject, a failure right at the beginning.

Martin Dobson of Burnley, delighted after scoring for his club.

Terrific

What's the up-to-date reaction? He says: "I was heartbroken, and then when the trial was fixed up, I knew everything depended on proving myself in just one terrific month."

So every morning, fearing he might be labelled a failure once more and get the boot a second time, Dobson impressed with tireless displays, revelled in doing a job as a wing-half, and was taken on the staff.

Now, he's the skipper of all the other fledglings, including his old pal Fletcher. Yes, what about this one, the 23-year-old who is setting the scoring pace for most of the rest.

Reception

He simply couldn't believe it when Sir Alf first picked him for the under-23 line-ups, though Adamson had forecast that the youngster would be stepping up the international ladder before the year was out.

At Paul's wedding reception in the summer, the boss had said that although marriage sometimes unsettled some players, he felt that it would help the bridegroom ease his way into the England squad.

So this pair, who were unknown a few, short years ago, but might now command a joint fee in the neighbourhood of almost half a million quid, are preparing to establish themselves in the national line-up—and make their greatest dreams come true.

Victoria lose their record

PORTUGAL

VICTORIA Setubal lost their unbeaten record the week-end after holding Leeds United to a one goal margin at Elland Road in the UEFA Cup the previous Wednesday.

It was match number 11 for them and played at Barreiro. CUF earned their victory, too. Victor Gomes put them ahead after eight minutes but when Octavio equalised thirteen minutes from the end for Setubal it seemed that their record had been preserved. However in the 85th minute Juvenal popped up to give the home side victory.

Setubal's performance at Leeds was all the more creditable as they had to play with 10 men for a time after the Brazilian striker Vincente was sent off.

On the same day as Setubal's defeat at Barreiro, Benfica crept a little nearer by beating their eternal rivals Sporting 2-0 in the Lisbon derby.

Over 70,000 turned up and saw a closely fought encounter which was virtually decided in the 55th minute when Benfica were awarded a free kick just outside the area. The entire Sporting side lined up in the wall but Nene touched the ball to Eusebio who somehow found a gap to put Benfica ahead. Twenty minutes later Vitor Baptista got his head to a corner by Nene, Damas somehow got across to it but Eusebio dived in to make certain and cut Setubal's lead to a point.

Hector Yazalde, the Argentinian centre forward of Sporting, off injured of late, was well held in this game by Messias and Humberto but is still leading scorer with 19 goals.

Benfica have confirmed that the Red Star Belgrade Manager Miljan Miljanic will join them in a similar capacity shortly.

Portugal manager Jose Augusto.

ANDERLECHT STILL AHEAD

BELGIUM

BELGIUM lost their outside chance of getting to Munich in the appalling goal-less draw against Holland. The statistics of the occasion were that it was the 104th meeting between the two countries since April 30, 1905. Of these Holland have won 46 times, Belgium 35 and there have been 23 drawn matches. Holland lead on goals 245 to 197.

But another more sinister figure needs to be added concerning this match alone in that no fewer than 50 free kicks were awarded during the 90 minutes, with players being hacked down at both ends of the field.

Belgium, who were on the defensive for long periods, did manage to get the ball in the net near the end when Jan Verheyen netted after a free kick but a linesman flagged quite rightly for offside. Because of the fuel crisis only 65 Belgium cars appeared carrying supporters and the bulk of the 8,500 visiting fans arrived by train.

In the championship Anderlecht caught the early leaders RWD Molenbeek after 10 matches, thanks to a scoring spree. Their three strikers Attila Ladinsky, Andre Denul and Robbie Rensenbrink who played for Holland against Belgium are creating havoc with opposing defences.

Another Dutchman in the news is Ruud Geels of Bruges the current champions. He hit six in an incredible 7-6 win over PSV Eindhoven the Dutch club in a friendly, and needs to show the same form in the League to get his club back in the title race.

Standard Liege with Yugoslavians Bukal and Rora out respectively with injury and suspension are well down the table at present and RWD seem back to their old habits of drawing too many games. Their goal-less draw at Diest was typical and cost them the League leadership though they are still unbeaten.

League halted

GREECE

THE LEAGUE programme in Greece was interrupted for two weeks because of the political situation but when it resumed both Olympiakos and Panathinaikos remained on top with 15 points each from nine games and both stay unbeaten.

Aris Salonika are third with the same number of points and one below them are PAOK.

One of the best performances of the season was put up by Ethnikos now managed by Vic Buckingham who held Olympiakos 1-1 in Piraeus.

ESCH LEAD

LUXEMBOURG

IT looks like a repeat of last season in Luxembourg with Jeunesse Esch the champions unbeaten at the head of the League and the two top scorers of 1972-73 trying again for the marksmanship honours.

Both Jean-Pierre Hoffman of Jeunesse Esch and the Ettelbruck striker Johnny Grettnich were level on nine goals each after nine matches, though Hoffman sneaked ahead with two goals in his next game.

Cerro Porteno dissatisfied

SOUTH AMERICAN LEAGUE SCENE by ERIC WEIL

PARAGUAY

A HIGHLY unusual situation has arisen in Paraguay where the First Division champions and current leaders, Cerro Porteno, have withdrawn from the league championship because of their dissatisfaction with local referees who, they say, are against the club. Cerro Porteno has been pressing the Paraguayan FA to engage foreign referees for some time.

Cerro Porteno took the decision—which seems to be irrevocable—after being held to a 2-2 draw by third-placed Guarani and as a result second-placed Olimpia go to the top of the table.

ARGENTINA

IN ARGENTINA the National Championship has passed the half-way stage with some of the clubs and fans—at least those of Buenos Aires—not showing much interest.

The situation is different in the provinces where top class soccer is seldom seen. Here the fans are rolling up to produce record gates even though their own clubs—mostly semi-professional—may not be in the running for leading places.

One explanation is that Buenos Aires fans are saturated with soccer. Games in the national championship are being played twice weekly. The football is also mostly poor. The recent River Plate-Boca Juniors classic—won 1-0 by the former—did produce a new record gate however. Tickets have of course increased in price since last year.

Lean spell

One club interested in an effort to end their lean spell of no honours since 1957 (but plenty before that) are River Plate who lead Section "A" with eight wins and one defeat. But they are finding the going tough—specially against the provincial teams and it was San Lorenzo of Mar del Plata who inflicted their only defeat on them.

One club which does not seem to be interested are South American club champion Independiente (half-way down Section "B"). They are playing most of their home games in the provinces—much to the annoyance of their fans—in an effort to get a few extra pesos at the gate. Would a club dare to do this in England?

The Metropolitan First Division champions, Huracan, top Section "B" and the two Rosario clubs, Newell's Old Boys and Central, are two others most likely to succeed in their respective sections. The top two of each section go into the title play-offs.

Huracan are out to emulate San Lorenzo's feat of last year when the Saints won both the Metropolitan and national titles. San Lorenzo, having sold a number of top players to foreign clubs this season, are not what they were but they are, like Huracan, still unbeaten and within striking distance.

BRAZIL

BRAZIL'S national champions, Palmeiras of Sao Paulo, have been leading the season's national championship—in which there are 40 teams taking part this year—from the start and are now two points ahead of nearest rivals Gremio (Porto Alegre) after 17 games during which they have not been defeated.

CHILE

IN CHILE the First Division championship has finally got under way again following lengthy suspension—first while the national team was engaged in the World Cup and then due to political upheavals. There are still 13 games to go while champions Colo Colo—who were exempt from league games while engaged in the South American Club Championship earlier in the season—have considerably more to make up (which is why they are currently only in thirteenth place).

URUGUAY

IN URUGUAY, Penarol, with only two points dropped in draws during the first fifteen games, lead champions and traditional rivals Nacional by five points with seven games to go.

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Huracan's Brindisi put his team ahead with a penalty as Boca Juniors goalkeeper Sanches goes the wrong way during an Argentinian league match at Boca's stadium.

Chile not fooled

• REACTION: Chileans weren't fooled by the Soviet Union's refusal to play the second leg of their World Cup final eliminator in Santiago due to the political situation. It was obvious that it suited the Soviet Union's soccer team—which could only manage a 0-0 draw in the first leg in Moscow—to play the game in a neutral country.

The reason that "Santiago's National Stadium has been turned into a concentration camp, an arena of torture and execution for Chilean patriots and that for moral reasons Soviet sportsmen could not play in an arena stained with blood" raised a smile in South America as it came from the Russians who have made a fine art of political persecution and murder.

When the Chilean FA reluctantly offered to play the game in another Chilean town—although it would have hit them financially—the Soviet Union also refused.

Applauded

FIFA's firm stand in not giving way to the Russians was applauded in South America, while one Argentine newspaper—the English language Buenos Aires Herald—went so far as to suggest a sports boycott of Russia because, it said, "A large part of the world is presently boycotting South Africa sportswise for reasons which have nothing to do with sport and it would be much more to the point to boycott Russia who showed themselves to richly deserve such a measure, firstly for their 'expert handling' of the World Student Games in Moscow recently and now for their refusal to play this World Cup game for reasons which have nothing to do with sport."

• SURPRISE? The Argentine F.A. announced that it would not renew the contracts of the national team's coaching staff—headed by team coach Omar Sivori—when they expire at the end of the year. Sivori and his assistants took Argentina to the World Cup finals by winning their qualifying group against Bolivia and Paraguay so the decision may come as somewhat of a surprise, but I ended last month's World Cup article by saying: "Following a not unusual course of events, by next year Argentina may have a new team, perhaps under a new coach, to prepare for Munich and things will be back to square one."

• BRAZIL announces a tour of a team of veterans to the Soviet Union next year. The team is likely to include former World Cup stars Gilmar, Zito, Didi, Nilton Santos, Castilho and Zizinho.

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DOZSA STILL KEEP AHEAD

by LESLIE VERNON

ALL is well, if . . . for Dozsa, that is! The holders have been struggling to keep in front during the last few rounds of the Hungarian championship, but due to the failures of other teams to capitalise on the situation, they are "autumn champs" once again.

Their finish to the tape has been more closely fought than ever before, and after the penultimate matches, no less than seven clubs were in with a chance of leading the pack at the halfway stage.

This was a triumphant weekend for provincial teams, as Tatabanya beat Ferencvaros 2-0—their first victory against the much-respected green-and-whites for 13 years, Salgotarjan defeated Dozsa 2-1, and Videoton beat Honved.

The first time ever that the "Big Three" of Hungarian football were beaten in the same round by teams from the provinces. Honved were still on top with 18 points, but Dozsa, Tatabanya and Raba had the same number, and Ferencvaros, Pecs and Salgotarjan were on 17.

Excellent

So, the stage was set for a grand finale, and the Dozsa v. Tatabanya clash was the pick of the bunch. Dr. Lakat's team, oozing confidence after their 1-0 win over Lanerossi Vicenza in the Mitropa Cup, held the champions to a goalless first-half but Bene opened the scoring in the 60th minute. Edi Dunai got another nine minutes later, and "Ferike" Bene completed his hat-trick in the last three minutes of an excellent match — 4-0!

Importance

At the same time, Honved, surprisingly lost 2-0 against the depleted MTK. The blue-and-whites were without top scorers Koritar and Kovacs—both serving suspensions after being sent-off in earlier games. Still, Tibor Kiss, recently resurrected from obscurity, and the moody Becsei, got the necessary goals for them.

Raba were defeated 3-0 at Videoton in front of the best crowd of the day—8,000 (the other grounds were practically deserted in the freezing cold weather, despite the importance of the games). Ferencvaros put in a storming finish with the season's best victory over Haladas 6-1. Mate 2, Szoke, Juhasz, Ku, and young Kelemen scored their half-a-dozen goals. Pecs beat the outclassed Dorog 2-1 and found themselves in a medal-winning position on the table.

Consequently, until the opening of the spring campaign (March 3) Dozsa stay on top with 20 points, followed by Ferencvaros and Pecs on 19. Five clubs (!) are still in a challenging position with 18 each, and MTK, Csepel and Zalaegerszeg represent the middle-of-the-table group with 15 points collected in 15 games.

Programme

Sadly, Vasas with 11 points are amongst the relegation candidates alongside Haladas (11), Szeged (10) and Egyetertes who have nine points from nine drawn games. They were the only team which didn't win a single game during the league programme, and Dorog are seemingly doomed with six points . . . 341 goals were scored for a reasonable average of 2.84 goals-per-match.

Crowd figures were up on the previous season, and the strict refereeing ensured that discipline on the field was satisfactory. These are the dull statistics, but looking beyond them, one cannot help but feel depressed. The standard of football has been mediocre, the stamina and enthusiasm of the players suspect, and the closeness of the race was mainly due to the unpalatable fact that the teams are equally poor.

Relationship

There is widespread disenchantment with the game, and the relationship between the public and the players must improve, otherwise there is very little hope for the future. Ferenc Bene, one of the few footballers who never gives less than 100 per cent, summed-up the situation: "We must work harder in training, but the public chastisement of players must stop. If a player doesnt' behave as a sportsman should, off the field, (drinking, late nights etc.) this is a private matter between him and his club.

"Our predecessors — and I am not referring merely to the members of the "Golden Team"—enjoyed the sympathy and trust of the public. Wherever they went, they were surrounded by well-wishers, and their confidence made them feel 10 feet tall. Nowadays, after a defeat, we don't dare to go out on the streets. Comedians, cartoonists, hold us up to ridicule."

This is the usual chicken or the egg argument, and although I have some sympathy for the players, I cannot blame the public either. 1973 has been a truly disastrous year for Hungarian football. The national team hasn't won a single match and were, of course, eliminated from the World Cup. Since the game was introduced in the country, only 1902—1 match, 1905—1 match, and 1920—3 matches, were similarly unsuccessful years, and there is no need to compare those early years when football was in its infancy, with the present.

Smallest

The latest fiasco against E. Germany was watched by only 6,500 people—the smallest attendance for a full international in the Nepstadium.

The home team dominated the game —territorially—but a Lauck goal gave the visitors a well-deserved 1-0 win. Imre Rapp, the 36-years-old Pecs goalkeeper and young Dozsa defenders Kolar and Harsanyi, were given their first caps in this match, and it wasn't a happy debut for them. It was a typical Hungarian performance, which is too painful to dwell on. Something must be done!

Resignation

But while it is simple enough to diagnose the sickness, the cure will take a long, long time. It is rumoured that national team manager Rudolf Illovszky offered his resignation after the Sweden game, but it wasn't accepted. Now there are renewed speculations that he'll go and make room for Dr. Karoly Lakat to take over.

My view is that as long as the current system is in operation, (shamateurism, players-power, weak-kneed coaches, ignorant club directors, too much money for too little effort), the team manager will always be the fall-guy. If Lakat is foolish enough to try the impossible, I wish him all the luck in the world—he'll need it!

World Soccer's ANDREW DETTRE reports from a happy Sydney

IMPOSSIBLE BUT TRUE!

THE impossible dream has come true—Australia has reached the 1974 World Cup finals. Where giants like England, the USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Portugal and either Spain or Yugoslavia have fallen by the wayside, the Aussies triumphed.

I know that a lot of fans in London, Budapest and other places will pour cold water on this achievement, pointing out that Australia qualified from a weak group, that it was sheer geographical luck that swept us into the final 16 etc. But do bear in mind that this grouping was not sought by Australia, merely thrusted on her and that one country *HAD TO* come through from the Asian-Oceania region anyway—so why not Australia which proved to be the strongest in the group?

The exploits of North Korea and Israel, two previous representatives of Asia in 1966 and 1970, should not be forgotten, either. Both performed a great deal better than had been expected. Italy, for example, couldn't beat either of them at two successive World Cups . . .

The final drama in the Australian World Cup bid came with the three matches against South Korea. In the first in Sydney, the Australians, by then well into their off season, struggled badly, sending their 32,000 Sydney fans into despair. The Koreans dictated play and set up, then missed, three glorious chances to tee-up the entire series. Australia was let off the hook but the team went to Seoul for the return encounter with little hope.

Immortal

There, in freezing cold conditions, the Koreans appeared to live up to their promise of rubbing Australian noses into the grassless dirt of the stadium. After 28 minutes and following two heart-breaking defensive errors, Australia was down 0-2. Not since General MacArthur's immortal landing behind the North Korean lines in the early 1950s did hear Seoul greater jubilation than the one greeting the second Korean goal. But before the fruits of their labour could really be savoured, it was 1-2, after a great header by left striker Branko Buljevic, a Yugoslav-born Australian.

That vital goal kept Australia in the match. Minutes after half time, a close range shot by Ray Baartz brought up the equaliser—and the Korean euphoria began to vanish. Although the final score remained 2-2, there were encouraging signs that the Australians were beginning to find their feet.

This was quickly borne out in Hong Kong three days later where the third, deciding match took place. From the kick-off the confident, most determined Australians not only dictated play but put on a display that would have done credit to almost any English First Division side, let alone those minnows our English friends like to compare us with.

The ball was running sweetly from man to man, bewildering the by now tired and jaded Koreans; the whole team was moving like a true team, not as in Sydney or Seoul. In tackling the Australians were always superior to the Koreans: now in pure football they also handed out a lesson to their opponents.

With an ounce of luck, Australia could have scored three goals in a scintillating first half. As it was, they had to wait until the 70th minute for their moment of glory when Jim Mackay's thunderbolt from some 25 yards rocketed into the Korean net.

Embraced

It was only in the last few minutes of the match that the Australians decided to slow down, hang on to the ball and play safe. And when the final whistle came it wasn't only the 11 deliriously happy players on the pitch that embraced but also hundreds of thousands of fans, watching the match live on TV in their homes, sitting up until 1 am Sydney time.

There is little doubt that the Koreans had every chance a team could ask for: both in Sydney and in Seoul they were the better side, yet couldn't establish an advantage. In Hong Kong, however, the story was vastly different. For Australia one bite at the cherry was enough . . .

With a mouthful of sour taste, the Koreans took defeat badly. Immediately after the match they complained bitterly about the fact that Australia was in their group in the first place, pointing to a physical advantage enjoyed over their players. As if that could be helped.

They also mentioned in passing—loudly and frequently—that many of the Australian players were migrants from other countries. This, of course, is true. Australia is a migrant country with 25 percent of the population having been born in Europe. Many of our top players came here either as children or as young men and fought their way to the top in soccer.

However, back in Australia, the jubilation was complete. Even before the Seoul and Hong Kong matches, both the Prime Minister, Mr. Gough Whitlam and the Minister for Sport, Mr. Frank Stewart sent encouraging telegrams to the Australian team. The morning after the Hong Kong triumph, Mr. Stewart paid rich tribute to the team's exploits in Parliament House, Canberra, only to be joined by the leaders of the Opposition parties with similar laudatory remarks. For the first time in the 72-year-old history of Parliament, soccer was the topic for some 15 minutes . . .

It is too early to assess the significance of Australia's success in the long run. Officials confidently expect a boom on the domestic scene, not to mention among the youngsters.

The Australian Soccer Federation, which has poured some $400,000 into the World Cup venture so far (but has recouped most of it already), partly from private sponsors, expects about $250,000 as their share from the World Cup takings. After expenses and bonuses, the bulk of this money may be used for the development of the game.

The ASF, headed by astute lawyer-businessman Sir Arthur George, is also laying plans for 1974. It has been already decided that the team would go to Germany weeks before the start of the finals and play a number of tune-up matches against national sides, preferably those eliminated from the Cup. With tongue-in-cheek, it has also been suggested that England be included in this programme . . .

Official

And why not, really? England and Australia have never yet played an official match; this would be an opportunity. While it may hurt our English friends that we have succeeded where they failed, surely one could expect a little brotherly assistance once the wounds have healed. Do remember also that it was Poland, not Australia, that robbed England from a place in the finals.

National team coach Rale Rasic, a 39-year-old Yugoslav born Soccer fanatic, is likely to pass up any chance of working with a club in 1974 to concentrate on his duties with the national side. He is determined, with ASF support, to take the best prepared and blended Australian team possible to the finals in June.

Although a few players have failed to live up to general expectations, Rasic is unlikely to make drastic changes in his squad of 22 that have earned the trip to Germany. Veterans John Watkiss, John Warren and Doug Utjesenovic were below their best in the recent matches but all enjoy Rasic's confidence. Besides, there is a dearth of truly accomplished young lions who could rightfully replace the tested and true veterans.

TOUGH GAMES FOR SCHÖN

by
Arthur Rotmil

A 1-1 draw with Scotland in Glasgow, followed by a 2-1 home win over Spain at Stuttgart—these were two further milestones on the road of the German national side preparing for the World Cup finals. Both matches proved tough against opponents of whom the Scots, already qualified for the world series were out to confirm their status, whilst the Iberians still had a good chance of going through, if Yugoslavia were to fail against Greece in mid-December. For Germany's manager Helmut Schön there was the usual chain of events filled mostly with difficult problems of injury or non-availability of key players.

Against Scotland he could at last field his favourite schemer Günter Netzer, who missed eight consecutive internationals during a period of exactly one year, partly because of injury, but also because he cannot obtain release from his club Real Madrid for weekend fixtures. On the other hand, Schön had to find substitutes, first for his other midfield "general" Wolfgang Overath, who developed influenza at the last minute, and for that great striker Gerd Müller, who after scoring a brilliant hat-trick in Bayern's 4-1 win over Hamburger SV, injured a knee and dropped out of the squad. In addition, his injured clubmate Paul Breitner was still missing from the line up in Glasgow.

In these circumstances the German XI took a long time to find any sort of rhythm and cohesion against an ambitious Scottish team which attacked with gusto and had the better chances, but no one to convert them. The Scottish goal came from their stopper Jim Holton and even the great Billy Bremner failed from the penalty spot!

The recently much maligned Sepp Maier—who, as arranged, replaced Kleff at half time—easily held Bremner's soft kick. Five minutes later Flohe, who also came on as a substitute, floated over a fine centre which Uli Hoeness headed past Harvey for the 1-1 equaliser.

Available

For the encounter with Spain, Günter Netzer was not available, because under the terms of his contract with Madrid he must not play against Spain! And left winger Erwin Kremers, together with Herbert Wimmer, were forced out through injury. This time, however, both Overath and Müller were fit.

Müller celebrated his 50th cap, whilst Overath equalled the German record of 72 internationals held by Uwe Seeler. But both were overtaken in this match by Franz Beckenbauer who is now Germany's record cap holder with 73! Beckenbauer is determined to become the first German to play 100 internationals, and as he is 28 and knows how to conserve his energies, he may even break Bobby Moore's 108 appearances!

With Kremers indisposed, Jupp Heynckes was moved to left wing and scored both goals against Spain in the 14th and 37th minutes. Spain replied through Claramunt (52). The match confirmed that the present defence block of Vogts, Beckenbauer, Weber and Höttges is the ideal composition. But in midfield the problem is not who to send out, but who to leave out!

Manager Schön would dearly love to include both Netzer and Overath. But which of these aces should be added to make up a trio: Hoeness, Wimmer, Cullmann, Hölzenbein, Flohe, Danner, Kapellmann or Breitner? It is really an incredible situation, especially when one thinks how many countries are today crying out for creative midfield schemers.

In attack Gerd Müller should be partnered by Grabowski and either Heynckes or Erwin Kremers. But with so many midfielders breathing, literally, down their necks, it may even be Uli Hoeness who gets the right wing berth.

Custodian

Or even Heynckes, if Kremers is preferred, or alternately Held on the left flank. And lastly the ticklish problem of goalkeeper, now that Maier is back to form and challenging Kleff. But the laughing third man could yet be Norbert Nigbur (Schalke), in whom many experts see as the best custodian in the land.

Just how big the international squad has become can be judged from the fact, that in the last 10 matches Schön has tried no fewer than 27 players! And of these, eight men were making their debuts. And this is the German XI which did *not* play against Spain: Kleff; Kapellmann, Schwarzenbeck, Helmut Kremers, Breitner; Flohe, Hölzenbein, Netzer; Wimmer, Held, Erwin Kremers! Can any other country in Europe put out such a great B-team? The side which *did* tackle the Spaniards was incidentally the most experienced ever fielded by Germany. The eleven men boasted between them a total of 486 caps!

In the *Bundesliga* with one game left before the half way mark, a trio consisting of Eintracht Frankfurt, Bayern Munich and Borussia Mönchengladbach are setting the pace. Frankfurt spurred on by the internationals Grabowski and Hölzenbein are proving the surprise packet of the season.

Both Bayern and Borussia Mg. are still engaged in the European Cup tournaments. In fact, all five German teams have surmounted the Second Round. No other country can boast of such a record, which confirms emphatically the strength-in-depth of German club football.

Uli Hoeness of Bayern Munich.

WACKER THE BEST BET

SWAROSKI Wacker Innsbruck are once more favourites for the Austrian championship after being overshadowed first by Sturm Graz and later by VOEST Linz.

In their last two matches to the half-way mark the champions clashed with them both beating Sturm (who had meanwhile slipped well back) by 2-0 and hammering VOEST the big challenger by 4-0.

Innsbruck's strength lies in all round ability and they barely seem to miss the departure of international left winger Kurt Jara to Valencia.

VOEST's defeat at Innsbruck was their first reverse after an unbeaten run of 11 games.

Hans Krankl, the young Rapid star, continues to share top goalscorer's spot with the West German (now naturalised) Lothar Emmerich. Both are on the 15 goal mark—five ahead of the field—but Innsbruck score with two men on ten, the West German Bobby Breuer and the Dane Ove Flindt.

Also on ten are two other Austrians, Geza Gallos (Linz ASK) and Hans Pirkner (Alpine Donawitz).

Relegated

Bottom of the table once more are FC Vorarlberg, for whom the doubtful distinction of being relegated in consecutive seasons looms ominously on the horizon.

As Vorwerk Bregenz they were relegated at the end of last season before fussing with Raetia Blugenz, a neighbouring club who won promotion.

Former international star of the fifties, Ernst Oewirk, made headlines in an unusual fashion, being injured and carried off on a stretcher as manager of Admira-Energie-Wacker.

During the match with Alpine (won 3-1) Oewirk ran onto the pitch to help an injured player, fell and hurt a leg that had to be operated on.

The OFB as anticipated ruled that the abandoned FK Austria-SC Rapid Viennese derby should be re-played on a neutral ground. Strangely the match was played at the Prater Stadion which *is* a neutral ground but stipulated that the replay should not be staged there.

The game was eventually played off at Admira's ground at Sud Stadt and Rapid's championship hopes went with a 1-3 defeat.

Dresden make recovery...

EAST GERMANY

DYNAMO Dresden have made a remarkable recovery in the East German championship race and despite the continued absence of their star all-rounder Hans-Jurgen Kreische have also achieved a remarkable 'double' in the DFV Cup.

In the League Dynamo entertained highly placed Lokomotive Leipzig before 26,000 and won 1-0 and on the same day the top team Carl Zeiss (Jena) were hammered 3-0 by 1st FC Magdeburg.

International striker Jurgen Sparwasser got two of the goals and making things worse for Zeiss, left winger Oberhard Vogel was sent off late in the game.

The following round brought Dynamo right back into the reckoning when they beat the new leaders Magdeburg despite the absence of four first team regulars and though they had a penalty let off they won handsomely by 3-0 to get within two points of the top.

In the Cup three Dresden clubs reached the last 16—FSV Lokomotive Dresden and Dynamo Dresden's First Team and Reserves. Lokomotive gave Energie Cottbus—fresh up from Division II and with Stahl Riesa who went up with them both favourites to drop back again—a good run before going out 1-0 and 1-1.

Dynamo drew 16,000 for their first leg with Wismut Aue, won 2-1 in the second leg, led 1-0 until the last minute when they conceded an equaliser.

Two days later Dynamo's reserves pulled in 5,000 in freezing weather to beat Hansa Rostock (half way up the First Division) by 4-0. They hung on in the second after training 0-3 and 1-4 to win 6-5 on aggregate.

Their hero was Klaus Sammer the centre midfield who scored three times in the first leg and then surprisingly allowed to do so under the regulations —played for the First team in the second leg.

Hans-Bert Matoul, the top league scorer with 13 goals from 12 games got both goals in Lokomotive Leipzig's 2-0 win over FC Carl Zeiss. He scored again in the second leg but Zeiss won 4-1 to qualify for a quarter final clash with Stahl. Dynamo A meet FC Karl Marx Stadt and the B side play Energie Cottbus while Magdeburg v. Dynamo Berlin completes the draw.

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LESS GOALS

RUSSIA

FULL of good intent, the idea to ban draws in league matches in Russia for the 1973 season came to nothing. Inspired by the hope that penalty kicks after draws and no point for a team losing on penalties would discourage defensive tactics the outcome should act as a deterrent to those who would tinker with the Laws of the game.

Far from encouraging teams to attack, the 1973 campaign brought 17 less goals (a very small percentage) compared with 1972 and draw champions were Zenith Leningrad who managed to finish all square in 12 of their 30 league games.

Though they drew most games they were also the least successful at converting penalties — losing a point this way on no fewer than nine of the 12 occasions when penalties were called for!

The top of the table would have shown no change under the old system of one point for a draw with Ararat drawing seven, runners up Dynamo Kiev drawing 8 and both failing on penalties four times. Penalty champions were Kairat (Alma Ata) who drew 11 games (more than one third of the programme) and won a point ten times on penalties.

Relegated

At the other end of the table ASK Rostov would still have been relegated but the one big change due to penalty took Dynamo Minsk down with them. Under the usual system Karpaty Lvov would have taken their place.

Dynamo drew nine games but won the round of penalties only three times while with a straight point for a draw they would have been one point better off than Karpaty.

Dynamo Kiev, accustomed to honours in recent years created a big surprise by sacking manager Alexander Sevidov after a successful season which brought second place in the league and an appearance in the Cup Final that went to extra time.

Sevidov has rebuilt almost the entire team and still been relatively successful but to his committee it appears the Cup Final defeat was the last straw.

His successor is former Kiev left winger Valeri Lobanowsky who has recently been manager of nearby Dnepr. Out too goes ZDSA boss and former national team manager Valentin Nikolaev and a number of lesser known figures.

Slava Gogia, the goalkeeper of Dinamo Tbilisi.

Levski Spartak are dominant

BULGARIA

CSKA Sofia, double winners in Bulgaria last season drew international attention when they eliminated Ajax from the European Cup but on the domestic scene it is their neighbours Levski-Spartak who dominate.

Traditionally the most popular club, Levski maintained an opening run of 12 matches without dropping a single point, though several of their games were won by single goal-margins.

At home to GSK Spartak Varna, who were bottom at the time, Levski hung on to win 3-2 with two of their goals being scored by defenders Ivkov and Jetchev.

A fortnight later, after Levski had beaten their closest challenger Lokomotive Plovdiv by 3-1, the Varna club did them a big favour by beating Lokomotive 2-0.

With Lokomotive slipping, CSKA moved up into second place before the 11th round clash with Levski but an own goal by Vassilev, the Army club international defender gave Levski a 1-0 win they deserved on the play but seldom looked like earning.

This stretched their lead at the top to a massive eight points.

Beroe (Stara Zagora) were Levski's next opponents and in Sofia the home side just scraped home 3-2 with goals from Milanov, Mitkov and their discovery of last season Panov.

Petki Petkov, currently the popular choice for centre forward in the World Cup squad, tops the scorers list with 16 goals from 13 games but appears to get his goals in bulk against the weaker sides.

After a hat-trick in the previous game, won 6-2 against Spartak Pleven, it was Bontche who got both goals against Levski. Finally at the 13th hurdle it was Spartak Pleven, bottom of the table who finally ended Levski's run.

Pavlov gave the leaders a goal advantage in the second half but Spartak equalised and hung on to draw 1-1.

With everyone playing defensively goals are rare and Slavia Sofia, joint second last season are just one point above the bottom pair with almost half the season gone.

Etar (Tirnovo) who just escaped the drop last season are now 4th but only four points cover the middle section of the table comprising 11 teams.

Szarmach hat-trick inspires Polonia...

POLAND

A hat trick by Andrej Szarmach gave Gornik Zabrze a 3-0 win over Polonia Bytom and set them off on a run of five consecutive victories that took them up into third place in Poland.

The most impressive performance came in a midweek game (put off earlier) at home to champions Stal Mielec.

Former international inside forward Zygfried Szoltysik scored an individualistic goal in the opening minute and got another in the second half to clinch a 2-0 win.

The champions followed this with seven points from the next four matches including a 7-0 home win over LKS Lodz and have closed up to within three points of the pace-makers Ruch Chorzow.

Another former international Joachim Marks is the leading Ruch scorer with nine goals but Ostafinsky, Benigier (who took a hat trick against Odra Opole and Bula are also regular scorers. It is this depth of scoring talent that is Ruch's strength.

Wisla Krakow also have regular scorers in Kapka and Kmiecik and topped the table after ten games. Then they crashed 0-2 away to relegation threatened Zaglebie Walbrzych and then beaten 1-0 at Chorzow they trail six points behind Ruch.

Amongst the current internationals left winger Robert Gadocha is the highest scorer with seven goals for Legia Warsaw but only half the first division clubs have managed to average a goal per game in a competition dominated by defence.

Already it appears that Zaglebie Sosnowiec are booked for relegation. In 14 games they have scored only twice!

Ruch, Stal, Legia and Gornik have provided the bulk of players in Poland's improved international position. This was underlined when their Under 23 team reached the quarter finals of the EUFA competition.

Qualifying in a group that included West Germany the Poles took three points from two games despite the Germans fielding seven full internationals in the final, decisive encounter in Warsaw.

SPARTAK IN LAST EIGHT

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

SPARTAK Trnava have reached the quarter finals of the European Cup once more but in the process of rebuilding are only just holding their own in the championship. At home to Tatran Presov they won 3-0 with goals from Adamec (2) and Kuna, then drew 0-0 away to Lokomotive Kosice before the 13th game, a visit from Teplice got the controversial Adamec into trouble again.

Kuna gave Trnava an early lead but Premysl Bicovsky (top scorer at the half way mark with nine goals) equalised. Two minutes from time left winger Kabat took the winner but eight minutes earlier Adamec had been sent off.

Guidance

Dukla Prague, who looked as if they were possible championship material under the guidance of Josef Masopust, hit a bad patch during which they were beaten three times in four games.

A visit to Bratislava started the rot with a 3-0 defeat against Slovan.

Next time out Slovan beat Sparta Prague 2-0 while Dukla hammered their newly promoted neighbours Inter Bratislava 4-0 before losing two local derbies.

Midweek

A total of 24,000 watched the two games—Sparta beating the Army team 2-0 and then in midweek so that Dukla could finish their programme early to play in the Far East they trailed 2-0 to Bohemians, fought back to 2-2 with goals from Miroslav Gajdusek but finally went down 2-3.

Live TV (in full), an early onset of a cold winter and disenchantment following dismissal from the World Cup all contribute to some very poor attendances.

The best gate recently was almost 25,000 who saw Sparta Prague beat neighbours Bohemians 3-1 but quite a few matches have failed to pull in 2,000.

Key factor

Strangely, goals, which are said to be the key factor elsewhere, have often gone with very poor gates—926 seeing Lokomotive Kosice beat Cup holders Pstrava 5-1 and 747 watching another relegation candidate Inter hammer Plzen 6-1.

In the annual "Footballer of the Year" poll, it was not surprisingly defenders who took the top places with Ivo Viktor the Dukla goalkeeper taking the trophy once more.

Jan Pivarnik (Slovan) and Vaclav Samek followed him. Another ex-international doing well is former Dukla left back Ladislav Novak, manager of Division II leaders Jablonec.

YUGOSLAVIA SCRAPE IN

YUGOSLAVIA beat Greece 4-2 in the final qualifying round match of Group Seven to force a play-off with Spain to decide which country takes the 16th place in the 1974 World Cup Finals.

Yugoslavia had to win by more than a two goal margin to pip Spain, but it wasn't until the last minute of the match that Karassi scored the fourth goal to give Yugoslavia another chance.

Yugoslav forward Bajevic was sent off in the 34th minute for a foul on Glezos, when they were leading 2-1. Then defender Katalinski put through his own net to make the half time score 2-2.

Dragan Dzajic, who had not played a competitive match for eight months since breaking a leg, returned to the Yugoslavian side, but was substituted by Petrovic.

International review by Eric Batty

Malta score and win

MEDITERRANIAN islands like Cyprus and Malta can never expect to be super-powers in the football world but they will continue to present a real threat when playing at home. There will be times, too when, though they have no chance of qualifying in any of the big competitions they will play a decisive role in shattering someone else's chances as they almost did against Sweden.

Ironically, while it was Malta's only World Cup goal in six matches that forced on Sweden a play-off against Austria it was their 7-0 home win that gave them equal goals difference.

Though the biggest factors when playing in Malta may be both physical and psychological — the atrocious pitches, bone hard with a thick covering of sand-like dust—and the deceptively comforting knowledge that they are *only* playing Malta in the minds of the visiting players, the great leveller is probably defensive tactics.

With nothing to play for but their pride, the underdogs have learned like everyone else that an eight man defence, and slow, slow, keep-ball tactics can enable them to hold up their heads in any company. So it was at the Gzira Stadium in Valetta where Sweden needed a two goal win to qualify and with a crowd of 20,000 watching the Swedes were made to sweat.

The Maltese kept it tight and Sweden, too, were anxious to give nothing away but an undistinguished game burst into life after twenty minutes. Thomas Camilleri became Malta's hero, scorer of their first (and only) goal in six qualifying matches.

As so often happens this brought the Swedes to life and barely a minute passed before Ove Kindvall equalised. Ten minutes later it was Kindvall again who led to Sweden's second goal when he was adjudged by Greek referee George Kapsoras to have been fouled and the ball was put on the penalty spot for Bo Larsson to score.

Throughout the second half the Maltese showed off their skills on their own familiar pitch, playing the ball around in tight little knots. Sweden meanwhile became desperate. Denied the vital extra goal they needed they failed to produce anything more imaginative than long high balls, seeking the head of Ralf Edstrom in the hope that something would turn up.

Ireland recall Best

THOUGH the Portuguese continue to produce skilful players, there are currently few with real class and none with the will to succeed against players who revel in physical contact. Having already dropped a vital point to Northern Ireland this was the moment of truth for team manager Jose Augusto and it can hardly have been palatable.

Lisbon fans underlined the poverty of their game by staying away though 70,000 turned out a week later for the Benfica-Sporting clash. The few that did attend were rewarded with a goal after half an hour from the talented and streamlined Benfica ball player Jordao but generally the Portuguese never got organised as a team.

In midfield Toni struggled manfully but he is no Coluna and finally the physically stronger Irishmen began to take control. George Best, playing international football for the first time in almost a year, played a withdrawn role in midfield but despite a few neat touches was clearly not fully fit.

His counterpart in the Portuguese camp, Eusebio, was not fit at all and though he is not the power he was once thought to be, Portugal looked lost without him.

In the 68th minute, Bertie Lutton, a West Ham reserve, scored Ireland's equalising goal and an undistinguished game died tamely, taking with it Portugal's last slender hopes of World Cup qualification.

ENGLAND FAIL

IF England once more demonstrated that their creative talents are very limited indeed, the Italians contributed little to relieve the boredom of a tedious evening at Wembley.

Gianni Rivera was beyond question the most skilful and creative player on view but he appeared determined not to play a decisive role. From time to time he pulled down difficult balls, feinted and dribbled past an opponent and distributed enough skillfully laid passes to prove his pedigree. But, never once did he threaten the England goal with a shot or telling pass. Refusing to sprint or tackle—or even to offer a challenge—he spent around 85 minutes of the proceedings looking like a disinterested spectator in midfield.

Overrated

Luigi Riva also failed to bother himself and Giorgio Chinaglia must have impressed many people seeing him for the first time that he ranks amongst the most overated (and overpaid) players in the world.

With Channon, Osgood and Clarke finding it impossible to break down the ruthless Italian marking, and the burly Burgnich quick to pounce on anyone that threatened to do so, this was an exceptionally good advertisement for watching the game on TV. At least at home you can switch to another channel.

Colin Bell gave perhaps his best performance in an England shirt though in 90 minutes his contribution was insignificant by comparison with what Rivera managed in five.

Italy's winning goal in the 88th minute was more than a little fortunate involving the co-operation of the entire England defence. Fabio Capello began the move with a nicely judged pass to Chinaglia on the right. Having made his pass Capello went off like a hare and was then forced to stand un-marked for a good five seconds while Chinaglia refused even to look at him let alone give him the ball he begged for.

Finally, Chinaglia made a shooting angle round Bobby Moore and Peter Shilton chipped in by palming the ball down. Capello (still un-marked) tapped home the softest of goals.

Netzer back

FOR the first time in more than a year Gunter Netzer and Herbert Wimmer were paired together in midfield for West Germany but in the absence of Gerd Muller they seldom looked dangerous against Scotland.

On paper the Scots look as if they are making progress but the unquestioned talent of Billy Bremner and the skilful (if limited) hard work of Willie Morgan cannot disguise the fact that their approach is over-physical.

Neither Grabowski nor Erwin Kremers were able to get round the back of the Scottish defence consistently

International review by Eric Batty

Malta 1 Sweden 2
England 0 Italy 1
Scotland 1 West Germany 1
Portugal 1 Northern Ireland 1
Turkey 2 Switzerland 0
Bulgaria 2 Cyprus 0
France 3 Denmark 0
Hungary 0 East Germany 1
West Germany 2 Spain 1
Sweden 2 Austria 1

and Siggi Held is clearly over the top. Netzer's star has waned too for he failed to dominate the midfield with his skills and elegant distribution as he would have done 18 months ago.

For all their deficiencies Scotland offered more in the way of effort and pressure though, as they will know by next June, this is not enough for success at the highest level. Significantly the Scotland goal was headed by Jim Holton who could never be described as skilful or talented. An out and out stopper, he still looks a Third Division player.

Helmut Schon once more made four substitutions to underline the fact that he has lost his way. Sepp Maier came on in goal for the second half and when the referee with considerable generousity awarded a penalty when Ken Dalglish went down in the area, he moved smartly to his left to save Bremner's spot kick.

Berti Vogts gave the most accomplished performance for the Germans but it was Uli Hoeness who salvaged a draw late in the game. A high cross from Heinz Flohe only a few minutes after he had come on as a substitute somehow evaded David Harvey in goal and Hoeness was left with a clear header at the far post.

Clearly the Germans are not what they were and the outlook for the World Cup as a whole is bleak indeed.

TURKEY TOP SWISS

HAVING drawn 0-0 away to both Italy and Switzerland it was perhaps no surprise that they managed to beat the Swiss and take precedence over them in the final World Cup qualifying table on goals difference.

Galatasaray goalkeeper Yasin was the hero of the opening period when the Swiss, prompted by Odermatt and Kuhn threatened several times to go ahead. Gradually, however, the Swiss enthusiasm was blunted and on a pitch that was clearly not to their liking at Izmir, they finally succumbed.

The Belgium team that drew 0-0 with Holland.

After a very cautious start the Turks began to acquire confidence and after Mehmet had given them the lead early in the second half they took control. Two goals in four minutes, the second from veteran Metin appeared to demoralise the Swiss who might well have conceded further goals if the finishing of the Turks had matched their enthusiasm.

Problems for Bulgaria

ALREADY sure of their World Cup place following Portugal's failure to beat Northern Ireland, Christo Mladenov had an opportunity to experiment in the final game at home to Cyprus.

Having won away handsomely, however, it appears that the Bulgarian game has still not fulfilled its promise and with most of their problems in attack there is little choice for experiment.

The Cypriots at times produced a high degree of individual skill but were never really able to threaten Geranov in the Bulgarian goal and despite a territorial advantage the home side were never able to press home their overall superiority.

With nothing at stake and Bojil Kolev giving them the lead in the second minute the Bulgarians should have been full of confidence but their hesitant forwards failed to make any real impression. In midfield, Bonev was once more below his best form of a year ago and the hard-working Stoyanov lacks the ability to match his endeavour.

The Bulgarian front three; Voinov, Milanov and Denev looked unable to produce a coherent attacking move and in the second half Panov and Petkov came on but failed to effect the necessary improvement.

Denev's second goal settled any slight doubts that Cyprus could snatch a point with a breakaway but the 25,000 crowd at the Vassil-Levski stadium were left with no illusions about the problems they will face in West Germany next year.

FRENCH IMPROVE

WHEN Stefan Kovacs took over from Georges Boulogne at the start of this season French fans were led to believe the Rumanian could transform their team. The more discerning, despite success over Greece and a creditable performance away to West Germany are now aware that there are no magicians in football.

For the visit of Denmark to the new Parc des Princes in Paris 14,000 paid to see if the *Genie* had worked his miracle while an estimated 10,000 junior players also turned out waving free tickets. If it was intended that the youngsters should see how the game 'should' be played it was an abject failure for a Danish team that according to one critic 'played like tourists'. Even so, despite clear French superiority the scoresheet remained blank for almost an hour.

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LEAGUE TABLES

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portadown	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**5**	**2**	**3**
Larne	2	1	1	0	6	3	3
Ballymena	2	1	1	0	6	3	3
Linfield	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Cliftonville	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Coleraine	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Ards	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Glenavon	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Crusaders	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Bangor	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Glentoran	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Distillery	2	0	0	2	2	8	0

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ujpest Dozsa	**15**	**9**	**2**	**4**	**36**	**22**	**20**
Ferencvaros	15	8	3	4	31	17	19
Pecs	15	6	7	2	17	15	19
Honved	15	9	0	6	30	16	18
Videoton	15	7	4	4	23	18	18
Salgotarjan	15	5	8	2	15	13	18
Tatabanya	15	7	4	4	21	20	18
Raba ETO	15	7	4	4	19	19	18
Csepel	15	6	3	6	21	19	15
MTK	15	6	3	6	19	18	15
Zalaegerszeg	15	6	3	6	16	21	15
Vasas	15	2	7	6	13	19	11
Haladas	15	3	5	7	14	23	11
Szeged	15	3	4	8	15	20	10
Egyetertes	15	0	9	6	10	26	9
Dorog	15	1	4	10	13	26	6

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vitoria Setubal	**11**	**9**	**1**	**1**	**27**	**5**	**19**
Benfica	11	8	2	1	15	4	18
Sporting	11	8	1	2	15	4	18
Porto	11	5	4	2	17	9	14
CUF Barreiro	11	5	4	2	20	13	14
Belenenses	11	5	3	3	22	15	13
Guimaraes	11	4	4	3	10	11	12
Farense	11	3	5	3	16	13	11
Boavista	11	4	2	5	15	20	10
Olhanense	11	4	1	6	12	28	9
Oriental	11	4	1	6	9	22	9
Barreirense	11	2	3	6	5	10	7
Beira Mar	11	3	1	7	13	23	7
Montijo	11	3	1	7	7	19	7
Academica	11	2	1	8	8	21	5
Leixoes	11	1	2	8	10	22	4

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zurich	**12**	**9**	**3**	**0**	**26**	**11**	**21**
Lausanne	11	6	3	2	23	15	15
Neuchatel Xamax	10	6	2	2	20	10	14
Grasshoppers	10	5	2	3	19	14	12
Servette	11	6	2	3	22	15	14
Winterthur	10	4	3	3	12	13	11
Young Boys	11	4	3	4	22	19	11
Basel	11	5	1	5	18	18	11
St Gallen	11	4	2	5	18	17	10
Sion	11	1	5	5	9	16	7
Lugano	10	1	4	5	8	19	6
Chenios	10	1	4	5	8	20	6
Chiasso	11	2	2	7	9	17	6
Chaux-de-Fonds	11	1	4	6	12	22	6

SPAIN

Valencia	**11**	**7**	**1**	**3**	**18**	**11**	**15**
Barcelona	12	5	4	3	22	10	14
Athletico Bilbao	12	6	2	4	12	11	14
Real Zaragoza	12	5	4	3	16	16	14
Athletico Madrid	12	6	1	5	20	11	13
Malaga	12	4	5	3	11	8	13
Real Sociedad	12	5	3	4	13	16	13
Real Madrid	12	3	6	3	15	7	12
Espanol	12	5	2	5	12	11	12
Murcia	12	3	6	3	14	16	12
Santander	12	3	6	3	11	13	12
Las Palmas	12	6	0	6	9	13	12
Granada	11	3	4	4	8	13	10
Celta Vigo	12	4	2	6	15	16	10
Oviedo	12	4	2	6	12	18	10
Gijon	12	5	0	7	15	22	10
Castellon	12	2	5	5	10	15	9
Elche	12	3	3	6	8	14	9

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carl Zeiss Jena	**12**	**9**	**0**	**3**	**27**	**12**	**18**
Magdebourg	12	8	2	2	23	14	18
Dynamo Dresden	12	6	4	2	24	18	16
Lokomotive L'zig	12	6	3	3	29	15	15
Sach'ring Zwickau	12	6	3	3	22	14	15
Karl Marx Stadt	12	5	4	3	21	19	14
Vorwaerts F'nk'ft	12	4	5	3	14	13	13
Hansa Rostock	12	5	2	5	16	16	12
Wismut Aue	12	4	3	5	16	18	11
Dynamo Berlin	12	4	2	6	25	25	10
Chemie Leipzig	12	2	4	6	16	24	8
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	12	1	5	6	9	17	7
Stahl Riesa	12	2	3	7	11	29	7
Energie Cottbus	12	0	4	8	8	27	4

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Spartak	**13**	**12**	**1**	**0**	**27**	**9**	**25**
CSKA Sofia	14	9	2	3	22	11	20
Loko' Plovdiv	14	6	4	4	21	18	16
Etar Tirnovo	13	5	4	4	20	11	14
Akademik Sofia	14	3	8	3	16	17	14
Loko' Sofia	14	5	4	5	18	20	14
Minor Pernik	14	4	5	5	14	22	13
Trakia Plovdiv	13	5	2	6	20	28	12
Botev Vratza	13	5	2	6	20	28	12
Pirin Bla'grad	13	5	2	6	10	22	12
Beroe St' Zagora	14	5	2	7	37	24	12
Slavia Sofia	14	5	2	7	17	16	12
Tch'more Varna	13	4	3	6	18	21	11
Jantra Gabrovo	14	4	3	7	12	16	11
Spartak Pleven	14	4	3	7	16	24	11
ESK Sp'k V'na	14	3	3	8	15	24	9

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Radnicki	**16**	**9**	**4**	**3**	**18**	**14**	**22**
Red Star Belgrade	16	8	3	5	34	23	19
Celik	16	6	7	3	15	8	19
Dinamo Zagreb	16	8	3	5	20	14	19
Hajduk Split	16	6	6	4	25	18	18
OFK Belgrade	16	7	4	5	21	17	18
Valez	16	6	5	5	23	19	17
Vardar	16	8	0	8	21	19	16
Bor	16	7	2	7	22	25	16
Olimpija	16	6	4	6	21	24	16
Proleter	16	6	3	7	16	18	15
Zeljeznicar	16	5	4	7	16	17	14
Partizan Belgrade	16	4	6	6	15	17	14
Sloboda	16	4	6	6	18	23	14
Sarajevo	16	4	6	6	18	23	14
Borac	16	2	8	6	16	19	12
NK Zagreb	16	4	4	8	13	29	12

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ruch Chorzow	**14**	**10**	**3**	**1**	**33**	**11**	**23**
Legia Warsaw	14	7	4	3	18	9	18
Stal Mielec	14	6	6	1	14	9	18
Wisla Krakow	13	7	3	3	19	11	17
Gornik Zabrze	13	7	2	4	20	10	16
LKS Lodz	13	7	2	4	13	7	16
Szombierki	14	4	7	3	15	13	15
Polonia	15	4	6	5	14	18	14
Slask	14	4	5	5	10	12	13
Gwardia	14	3	6	5	14	14	12
Lech	14	3	6	5	10	14	12
ROW Rybnik	14	3	6	5	9	14	12
Odra	14	3	6	5	12	18	12
Pogon	14	2	6	6	10	20	10
Z'g'bie Wal'b'ch	15	3	3	9	7	19	9
Z'g'bie S'wiec	14	1	3	10	2	21	5

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bonus Pts	Pts
St Etienne	**17**	**9**	**5**	**3**	**29**	**16**	**4**	**27**
Nice	17	8	4	5	32	17	6	26
Angers	17	8	4	5	36	26	6	26
Lyon	17	8	5	4	30	26	3	24
Reims	17	8	3	6	30	26	5	24
Lens	17	9	1	7	30	31	5	24
Sochaux	17	8	3	6	28	21	4	23
Nantes	17	8	4	5	25	18	4	23
Bastia	17	7	4	6	23	19	3	21
Nimes	17	6	6	5	22	20	3	21
Monaco	17	5	6	6	29	28	4	20
Marseille	17	5	5	7	27	29	3	18
Troyes	17	6	3	8	23	28	3	18
Metz	17	6	3	8	19	21	2	17
Bordeaux	17	4	6	7	23	25	3	17
Nancy	16	3	8	5	20	28	3	17
Paris	17	5	3	9	25	38	4	17
Rennes	16	6	4	6	15	18	0	16
Strasbourg	17	4	4	9	21	34	2	14
Sedan	17	4	3	10	15	33	0	11

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olym'kos Piraeus	9	6	3	0	28	4	15
Panathinaikos	9	6	3	0	18	4	15
Aris Salonika	9	7	1	1	12	3	15
PAOK Salonika	9	6	2	1	21	10	14
AEK Athens	9	6	0	3	22	9	12
Panachaiki	9	5	2	2	13	7	12
Panionios	9	5	2	2	13	9	12
Larissa	9	3	2	4	7	8	8
Iraklis	9	1	5	3	8	12	7
Appollon Athens	9	1	5	3	4	13	7
Panseraikos	9	2	3	4	7	17	7
Kavala	9	2	2	5	10	14	6
Ethnikos	9	2	2	5	8	14	6
Olympiakos	9	2	2	5	6	14	6
Fostir	9	1	4	4	6	15	6
Aigaleo	9	2	2	5	6	17	6
Apoel	9	1	2	6	10	16	4
Apollon Salonika	9	1	2	6	7	20	4

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uni. Craiova	**16**	**10**	**3**	**3**	**32**	**17**	**23**
Constanta	16	9	2	5	29	16	20
Steaua	16	8	3	5	21	15	19
Dinamo	16	8	3	5	22	18	19
CSM Resita	16	6	6	4	25	19	18
Steagul Rosu	16	7	3	6	18	13	17
Poli. Timisoara	16	6	5	5	17	15	17
Arges	16	7	3	6	25	26	17
UT Arad	16	7	2	7	17	20	16
AS Armata	16	7	2	7	21	30	16
Jiul	16	6	3	7	19	16	15
Uni. Cluj	16	6	3	7	13	14	15
Poli. Iassi	16	7	1	8	17	21	15
Sport. Student'	16	6	1	9	21	21	13
Petrolul	16	5	3	8	15	21	13
CFR Cluj	16	5	3	8	14	22	12
Rapid	16	4	4	8	14	22	12
SC Bacau	16	4	2	10	18	29	10

MORE NEXT MONTH

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	7	4	3	0	9	4	11
Juventus	7	4	2	1	15	7	10
Internazionale	7	3	4	0	15	8	10
Lazio	7	3	3	1	7	4	9
Fiorentina	7	3	3	1	6	4	9
Bologna	7	1	5	1	7	4	7
Milan	7	2	3	2	11	11	7
Torino	7	1	5	1	5	5	7
Cesena	7	1	5	1	4	4	7
Foggia	7	2	3	2	6	9	7
Cagliari	7	0	5	2	4	7	5
Genoa	7	1	3	3	4	9	5
Samadoria	7	2	3	2	6	5	4
Roma	7	2	0	5	5	8	4
Vicenza	7	0	4	3	4	21	4
Verona	7	1	1	5	6	13	3

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan Bratislava	15	8	4	3	28	17	20
Dukla Prague	15	9	1	5	23	15	19
Banik Ostrava	15	9	1	5	20	22	19
Sparta Prague	15	8	1	6	23	19	17
Bohemians	15	6	4	5	25	23	16
VSS Kosice	15	7	2	6	20	20	16
Spartak Trnava	15	5	5	5	16	16	15
Slavia Prague	15	7	1	7	16	19	15
Union Teplice	15	6	2	7	25	18	14
Tatran Presov	15	5	4	6	22	23	14
Skoda Plzen	15	5	4	6	23	26	14
AC Nitra	15	6	2	7	19	26	14
Lok. Kosice	15	5	3	7	23	25	13
Inter Bratislava	15	5	2	8	25	28	12
Zbrojovka Brno	15	5	2	8	15	19	12
ZVL Zilina	15	5	0	10	16	23	10

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	13	9	4	0	40	11	22
Feyenoord	13	9	2	2	42	17	20
Twente	13	8	4	1	24	10	20
PSV Eindhoven	13	8	3	2	43	13	19
Amsterdam	13	6	5	2	20	15	17
AZ 67	12	4	6	2	15	12	14
Den Haag	13	6	2	5	18	16	14
Telstar	13	4	6	3	18	18	14
Utrecht	13	6	0	7	19	24	12
Sparta Rotterdam	12	4	4	4	12	18	12
Go Ahead	13	4	3	6	19	28	11
MVV	13	4	3	6	15	26	11
Haarlem	13	3	3	7	13	22	9
NEC	13	2	4	7	10	15	8
Groningen	13	3	2	8	17	33	8
Roda JC	13	1	5	7	9	22	7
NAC Breda	13	2	3	8	20	34	7
De Graafschap	13	1	5	7	13	33	7

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse Esch	10	9	1	0	29	8	19
Spora	10	6	1	3	23	12	13
Aris	10	5	2	3	21	12	12
Red Boys	10	6	0	4	16	11	12
Avenir	10	5	1	4	22	17	11
Red Star	10	5	1	4	17	17	11
Fola	10	4	2	4	20	19	10
Union	10	4	1	5	14	17	9
Etzella	10	4	1	5	14	19	9
Rumelingen	10	3	2	5	12	21	8
Stade	10	1	1	8	12	24	3
The National	10	1	1	8	6	29	3

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	10	7	1	2	27	11	15
RWD Molenbeek	10	5	5	0	18	6	15
Malinois	10	5	3	2	15	10	13
Waregem	10	5	3	2	17	17	13
Beveren	10	4	5	1	14	8	13
Standard Liege	10	5	2	3	13	10	12
FC Bruges	10	4	3	3	17	10	11
FC Liege	10	4	3	3	19	16	11
Antwerp	10	4	3	3	11	8	11
CS Bruges	10	3	3	4	14	14	9
Lierse	10	2	4	4	10	15	8
St Trond	10	1	5	4	9	15	7
Berchem	10	2	2	6	10	23	6
Beringen	10	2	2	6	6	19	6
Diest	10	1	4	5	12	16	6
Beerschot	10	0	4	6	8	22	4

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds United	18	12	6	0	34	10	30
Liverpool	18	10	4	4	23	15	24
Newcastle	17	9	4	4	28	18	22
Burnley	17	8	6	3	24	16	22
Everton	18	8	6	4	22	17	22
Ipswich	17	8	5	4	29	25	21
O.P.R.	18	6	8	4	30	24	20
Southampton	18	7	6	5	24	25	20
Leicester	18	6	7	5	20	18	19
Derby County	18	7	5	6	19	19	19
Arsenal	18	7	4	7	21	23	18
Coventry	19	7	4	8	19	23	16
Chelsea	17	6	4	7	28	22	16
Sheffield United	17	6	4	7	22	22	16
Manchester City	17	6	4	7	18	20	16
Tottenham	18	5	5	8	19	27	15
Stoke	17	4	6	7	22	21	14
Manchester Utd	17	4	5	8	15	20	13
Wolves	17	4	4	9	18	27	12
Norwich	17	2	7	8	12	25	11
West Ham	18	1	7	10	15	29	9
Birmingham	17	2	5	10	17	33	9

ARGENTINA—National Championship

Section "A"	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	9	8	—	1	19	7	16
Velez Sarsfield	9	5	4	—	17	8	14
Newell's Old Boys	9	3	2	2	16	11	12
San Lorenzo	9	3	6	—	13	8	12
Estudiantes de La Plata	9	4	3	2	13	7	11
Racing Club	9	4	2	3	19	15	10
San Martin (Mendoza)	9	4	2	3	12	14	10
San Lorenzo (M. del Plata)	9	3	3	3	11	9	9
Instituto (Cordoba)	9	3	2	4	13	13	8
Colon (Santa Fe)	9	3	1	5	13	16	7
Chacarita Juniors	8	2	2	4	12	17	6
All Boys	9	2	2	5	11	17	6
Cipolletti (Rio Negro)	8	2	1	5	13	17	5
San Martin (Tucuman)	9	1	1	7	10	22	3
Juventud Antonina (Salta)	9	1	1	7	7	23	3
Section "B"							
Huracan	9	6	3	—	16	7	15
Rosario Central	9	6	2	1	19	7	14
Atlanta	9	6	1	2	21	12	13
Belgrano (Cordoba)	9	4	3	2	13	13	11
Boca Juniors	9	5	—	4	16	11	10
Atletico Tucuman	9	3	4	2	15	12	10
Independiente-Riv. (Mend.)	9	4	1	4	9	11	9
Gim. y Esgrima (La Plata)	9	3	2	4	13	13	8
Independiente	9	3	2	4	10	13	8
Argentinos Juniors	9	3	1	5	12	14	7
Chaco For Ever	9	3	1	5	13	17	7
Gimnasia y Esgr. (Jujuy)	9	3	1	5	12	21	7
Kimberley (Mar del Plata)	9	1	4	4	9	11	6
Ferro Carril Oeste	9	1	1	7	6	16	3

COLOMBIA—"Finalizacion" Championship (First Division)
1) Nacional 27 pts., 2) Millonarios 25, 3) Medellin 23, 4) Deportivo Cali 22, 5) Independiente Santa Fe, Junior, Tolima 18, 8) Quindio 17, 9) Pereira 16, 10) Bucaramanga, America (Cali) 15, 12) Cristal Caldas, Union Magdalena 12.

PERU—First Division (leaders)
1) Sporting Cristal, Universitario 36 pts., 3) Chalaco 35, 4) Melgar 34, 5) Defensor Lima 32.

URUGUAY—First Division (15 games played—7 to play)
1) Penarol 25 pts., 2) Nacional 20, 3) Danubio 19, 4) Rentistas, Cerro 18, 6) Liverpool 17, 7) River Plate, Wanderers 14, 9) Defensor 13, 10) Central Espanol 10, 11) Huracan Buceo 8, 12) Bella Vista 4.

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eintracht Frankf't	16	9	5	2	34	25	23
Bayern Munich	16	8	5	3	44	31	21
Borussia Moenchengladb'ch	16	9	3	4	39	27	21
Fortuna Dusseld'rf	16	7	5	4	29	24	19
Kaiserslautern	16	7	4	5	39	33	18
Cologne	16	6	6	4	27	27	18
VfB Stuttgart	16	7	3	6	34	24	17
Hertha Berlin	16	5	7	4	26	25	17
Kickers Offenbach	16	6	4	6	31	31	16
VfL Bochum	16	5	6	5	21	22	16
Rot-Weiss Essen	16	6	4	6	30	34	16
Wuppertaler	16	5	5	6	22	25	15
Hamburger SV	16	6	2	8	26	27	14
Werder Bremen	16	4	6	6	20	26	14
Schalke 04	16	5	3	8	29	38	13
Fortuna Cologne	16	2	7	7	21	33	11
Hannover	16	3	4	9	27	35	10
MSV Duisburg	16	3	3	10	18	30	9

BRAZIL—National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras (S. Paulo)	17	11	6	—	19	4	28
Gremio (P. Alegre)	17	10	6	1	22	6	26
Corinthians (S. Paulo)	17	9	6	2	20	11	24
Sao Paulo	17	8	7	2	22	10	23
Cruzeiro (B. Horizonte)	17	9	5	3	21	12	23
Coritiba	17	10	2	5	23	11	22
Botafogo (Rio)	17	7	8	2	19	9	22
Fortaleza	17	7	8	2	21	14	22
Goias	17	8	6	3	23	10	22
Internacional (P. Alegre)	17	8	5	4	16	10	21
Bahia	17	7	6	4	17	11	20
Atletico (M. Gerais)	17	7	6	4	21	13	20
Guarani (S. Paulo)	16	6	8	2	23	16	20
Fluminense (Rio)	17	7	5	5	18	15	19
Nacional	17	4	11	2	17	15	19
Vasco da Gama (Rio)	17	5	8	4	16	12	18
Santos	17	6	6	5	23	14	18
Rio Negro	16	6	6	4	16	11	18
America (M. Gerais)	17	5	8	4	14	10	18
Vitoria	16	6	6	4	13	10	18
America (Rio Negro)	17	5	7	5	24	24	17
Ceara	17	4	8	5	13	16	16
Portuguesa	16	4	8	4	20	16	16
Santa Cruz	16	5	6	5	16	22	16
Tiradentes	17	4	7	6	9	11	15
Remo	16	7	1	8	9	17	15
Figueirense	17	4	7	6	10	14	15
Atletico (Parana)	17	5	5	7	11	14	15
Comercial	17	5	4	8	16	22	14
Desportiva	17	5	4	8	12	14	14
America GB	17	3	6	8	10	18	12
Flamengo (Rio)	16	5	2	9	16	22	12
Nautico	16	4	3	9	11	22	11
Olaria (Rio)	16	3	5	8	10	16	11
Sport Recife	17	3	4	10	14	28	10
CEUB	16	3	4	9	11	17	10
C.R. Brasil	17	3	3	11	11	24	9
Moto Clube	17	1	6	10	6	27	8
Sergipe	17	3	3	11	5	27	7
Paisandu	17	1	4	12	11	29	6

CHILE—First Division (23 games played—13 to play)
1) Union Espanola 28 pts., 2) Dep. Concepcion 23, 3) O'Higgins, Huachipato, La Serena 22, 6) Autofagasto, Union Calera 21, 8) Green Cross 19, 9) Magallanes 18, 10) Universidad de Chile 17, 11) Naval, Rangers 16, 13) Colo Colo 14, 14) Wanderers 13, 15) Lota Schwager 12, 16) Universidad Catolica, Palestino 11, 18) Union San Felipe 10.

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

West Germany (0) 2 (Muller 2, 1 pen)
France (0) 1 (Tresor)

West Germany: Kleff; Hottges (Cullmann), Helmut Kremers, Weber, Beckenbauer, Flohe, Grabowski, Hoeness, Muller, Overath, Erwin Kremers.

France: Baratelli; Grava, Adams, Tresor, Repellini, Michel, Chiesa, Joure, Loubet, Molitor (Berdoll), Bereta.

Italy (1) 2 (Rivera pen, Riva)
Switzerland (0) 0

Italy: Zoff; Spinosi, Burgnich, Morini, Facchetti, Benetti, Capello, Rivera (Causio), Mazzola, Anastasi, Riva.

Switzerland: Deck; Weggmann (Stierli), Vuilleumier, Schild, Hasler, Chaguisat (Luisier), Odermatt, Kuhn, Blattler, Muller, Jeandupeux.

Yugoslavia (0) 0
Spain (0) 0

Yugoslavia: Maric; Krivokuca (Surjak), Pavlovic, Katalinski, Rogicevic, Vabec, Acimovic, Jerkovic, Bjekovic (Karasi), Bajevic, Oblak.

Spain: Iribar; Sol, Benito, Jesus Martinez (Iturraza), Uria, Costas, Claramunt, Asensi, Roberto Martinez, Garate, Valdez.

Belgium (1) 2 (Dolmans pen, Lambert pen)
Norway (0) 0

Belgium: Sanders; Bastyns, Devalque, Van Binst (Van der Elst), Dolmans, Verheyen, Van Himst, Dosk, Francois Janssens, Van Herp (Lambert), Jean Janssen.

Norway: G. Karlsen; H. Karlsen, Birkeland, Grondalen, Hovdan, Christiansen (Johansen), Petersen, Kvia (S. Karlsen), Sunde, Hestad, Lund.

Luxembourg (1) 2 (Manacelli, Langers)
Norway (1) 1 (Sunde)

Luxembourg: Moes; Kirsch, Fienghi, Hansen, Fandel, Manacelli, Philip, Trierweiler, Dussier (Langers), Braun, Di Domenico.

Norway: G. Karlsen; H. Karlsen (Hestad), Birkeland, Grondalen, Hovdan, Johansen, Petersen, Kvia, Sunde, Lund (Salberg), Skuseth.

Scotland (1) 1 (Holton)
West Germany (0) 1 (Hoeness)

Scotland: Harvey; Jardine, Holton, Connelly, McGrain, Bremner, Smith (Lorimer), Morgan, Law (Jordan), Dalglish, Hutchison.

West Germany: Kleff (Maier); Vogts, Beckenbauer, Weber, Hottges, Hoeness, Netzer, Wimmer (Cullmann), Grabowski, Held (Flohe), Erwin Kremers (Heynckes).

● Continued on page 49

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Results ... dates ... tables ... res

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Second Preliminary Round

Guinea 1, Morocco 1
Morocco 2, Guinea 0

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia 2, AR Egypt 0

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Second Preliminary Round

Tunisia 1, Ivory Coast 1
Ivory Coast 2, Tunisia 1

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

10.12.72 Mauritius 1, Kenya 3
17.12.72 Kenya 2, Mauritius 2

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Second Preliminary Round

1. 4.73 Ethiopia 0, Zambia 0
15. 4.73 Zambia 4, Ethiopia 2

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Second Preliminary Round

Nigeria 2, Ghana 3
Ghana 1, Nigeria 1

Group 11

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

4. 2.73 Cameroon 0, Zaire 1
25. 2.73 Zaire 0, Cameroon 1
27. 2.73 Zaire 2, Cameroon 0

Third Round

20. 5.73 Ivory Coast 1, Morocco 1
3. 6.73 Morocco 4, Ivory Coast 1
12. 8.73 Zambia 2, Kenya 0
19. 8.73 Kenya 2, Zambia 2
5. 8.73 Ghana 1, Zaire 0
19. 8.73 Zaire 4, Ghana 1

African Zone Finals

Zambia 4, Morocco 0
Zambia 0, Zaire 2

ASIA

Sub-Group B1

4. 3.73 Australia 1, New Zealand 1
11. 3.73 Australia 3, Iraq 1
Indonesia 1, New Zealand 1
13. 3.73 Iraq 2, New Zealand 0
Australia 2, Indonesia 1
16. 3.73 Iraq 1, Indonesia 1
Australia 3, New Zealand 3
18. 3.73 Indonesia 1, New Zealand 0
Australia 0, Iraq 0
21. 3.73 Iraq 3, Indonesia 2
24. 3.73 Iraq 4, New Zealand 0
Australia 6, Indonesia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	6	3	3	0	15	6	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	13	4
New Zealand	6	0	3	3	5	12	3

Asia Sub-Group B2

4. 5.73 North Korea 0, Iran 0
4. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 North Korea 1, Syria 1
8. 5.73 Iran 1, Syria 0
8. 5.73 Kuwait 0, North Korea 0
11. 5.73 North Korea 1, Iran 2
11. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 North Korea 3, Syria 0
15. 5.73 Syria 1, Iran 0
15. 5.73 Kuwait 2, North Korea 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	6	4	1	1	7	3	8
Syria	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
North Korea	6	1	3	2	5	5	5
Kuwait	6	1	1	4	4	8	3

18. 8.73 Australia 3, Iran 0
24. 8.73 Iran 2, Australia 0

Asia Sub Group A

Group A

Hong Kong (0) 1, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (2) 4, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (0) 0, Hong Kong (0) 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Japan	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
South Vietnam	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group B

South Korea (0) 4, Thailand (0) 0
Israel (1) 6, Thailand (0) 0
Malaysia (0) 2, Thailand (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Israel (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Malaysia (0) 0
Israel (2) 3, Malaysia (0) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	2	1	0	9	0	5
North Korea	3	1	2	0	4	0	4
Malaysia	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Thailand	3	0	0	3	0	12	0

Semi finals

South Korea (1) 3, Hong Kong (1) 1
Israel (0) 1, Japan (0) 0*

Final

South Korea (0) 1, Israel (0) 0*
* *after extra time*

Asian Zone Finals

First Leg

Australia 0, South Korea 0

Second Leg

South Korea 2, Australia 2

Play-off

Australia 1, South Korea 0

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	4	0	0	8	3	8
Canada	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
USA	4	0	1	3	6	10	1

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala 1, El Salvador 0
10.12.72 El Salvador 0, Guatemala 1

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam 1, Trinidad 2
30.11.72 Trinidad 1, Surinam 1
10.12.72 Surinam 3, Antigua 1
3.12.72 Antigua 0, Surinam 6
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad	4	3	1	0	16	4	7
Surinam	4	2	1	1	11	4	5
Antigua	4	0	0	4	3	22	0

Final Tournament

29.11.73 Honduras v. Trinidad
30.11.73 Mexico v. Guatemala
1.12.73 Haiti v. Neth. Antilles
3.12.73 Honduras v. Mexico
5.12.73 Neth. Antilles v. Guatemala
7.12.73 Honduras v. Haiti
8.12.73 Neth. Antilles v. Mexico
10.12.73 Guatemala v. Trinidad
12.12.73 Honduras v. Neth. Antilles
13.12.73 Guatemala v. Haiti
14.12.73 Trinidad v. Mexico
15.12.73 Honduras v. Guatemala
17.12.73 Trinidad v. Neth. Antilles
18.12.73 Mexico v. Haiti

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0

ults ... dates ... tables ... results

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25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0, Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary 2, Austria 2
24. 5.73 Sweden 3, Austria 2
13. 6.73 Hungary 3, Sweden 3
11.11.73 Malta 1, Sweden 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	3	2	1	14	7	8
Sweden	6	3	2	1	15	8	8
Hungary	6	2	4	0	12	7	8
Malta	6	0	0	6	1	20	0

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy 0, Turkey 0
25. 2.73 Turkey 0, Italy 1
31. 3.73 Italy 5, Luxembourg 0
8. 4.73 Luxembourg 0, Switzerland 1
9. 5.73 Switzerland 0, Turkey 0
26. 9.73 Switzerland 1, Luxembourg 0
20.10.73 Italy 2, Switzerland 0
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	4	2	0	12	0	10
Switzerland	5	2	2	1	2	2	6
Turkey	5	1	2	2	3	3	4
Luxembourg	6	1	0	5	2	14	2

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0, Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland 0, Norway 4
22. 8.73 Netherlands 5, Iceland 0
29. 8.73 Iceland 1, Netherlands 8 (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway 1, Netherlands 2
31.10.73 Belgium 2, Norway 0
18.11.73 Netherlands 0, Belgium 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	6	4	2	0	12	0	10
Netherlands	6	4	2	0	24	2	10
Norway	6	2	0	4	11	16	4
Iceland	6	0	0	6	2	29	0

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany 2, Albania 0
6. 5.73 Albania 1, Rumania 4
27. 5.73 Rumania 1, East Germany 0
6. 6.73 Finland 1, East Germany 5
26. 9.73 East Germany 2, Rumania 0
10.10.73 Albania 2, Finland 0
14.10.73 Rumania 9, Finland 0
3.11.73 Albania 1, East Germany 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
East Germany	6	5	0	1	18	3	10
Rumania	6	4	1	1	17	4	9
Finland	6	1	1	4	3	12	3
Albania	6	1	0	5	4	13	2

Group 5

15.11.72 Wales 0, England 1
24. 1.73 England 1, Wales 1
28. 3.73 Wales 2, Poland 0
6. 6.73 Poland 2, England 0
26. 9.73 Poland 3, Wales 0
17.10.73 England 1, Poland 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
England	4	1	2	1	3	4	4
Wales	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0, Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus 1, Northern Ireland 0
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland 1, Portugal 1
2. 5.73 Bulgaria 2, Portugal 1
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland 3, Cyprus 0
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland 0, Bulgaria 0
13.10.73 Portugal 2, Bulgaria 2
14.11.73 Portugal 1, Northern Ireland 1
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	5	3	2	0	11	1	8
Portugal	6	2	3	1	10	6	7
N. Ireland	6	1	3	2	5	5	5
Cyprus	5	1	0	4	1	12	2

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1, Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece 2, Spain 3
21. 2.73 Spain 3, Greece 1
21.10.73 Yugoslavia 0, Spain 0
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	2	2	0	8	5	6
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	0	8	3	4
Greece	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2, Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark 1, Czechoslovakia 1
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia 6, Denmark 0
26. 9.73 Scotland 2, Czechoslovakia 1
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia 1, Scotland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	3	0	1	8	3	6
Czechoslovakia	4	2	1	1	9	3	5
Denmark	4	0	1	3	2	13	1

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2, France 1
13. 5.73 USSR 1, Eire 0
19. 5.73 France 1, Eire 1
26. 5.73 USSR 2, France 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Eire	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
France	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

Play-off with South America Group 3
USSR 0, Chile 0

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia 1, Ecuador 1
24. 6.73 Colombia 0, Uruguay 0
28. 6.73 Ecuador 1, Columbia 1
1. 7.73 Ecuador 1, Uruguay 2
5. 7.73 Uruguay 0, Colombia 1
8. 7.73 Uruguay 4, Ecuador 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Colombia	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Ecuador	4	0	2	2	3	8	2

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia 1, Paraguay 2
9. 9.73 Argentina 4, Bolivia 0
16. 9.73 Paraguay 1, Argentina 1
23. 9.73 Bolivia 0, Argentina 1
30. 9.73 Paraguay 4, Bolivia 0
7.10.73 Argentina 3, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	4	3	1	0	9	2	7
Paraguay	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Bolivia	4	0	0	4	1	11	0

Group 3

29. 4.73 Peru 2, Chile 0
3. 5.73 Chile 2, Peru 0
15. 8.73 Chile 2, Peru 1
(Venezuela withdrew)

Play-off with Europe Group 9
USSR 0, Chile 0

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

● *Continued from page 47*

England (0) 0
Italy (0) 1 (Capello)

England: Shilton; Madeley, Hughes, Bell, McFarland, Moore, Currie, Channon, Osgood, Clarke (Hector), Peters.

Italy: Zoff; Spinosi, Facchetti, Bellugi, Benetti, Burgnich, Causio, Capello, Chinaglia, Rivera, Riva.

Holland (0) 0
Belgium (0) 0

Holland: Schrijvers; Suurbier, Mansveld, Hulshoff, Krol, Neeskens, Haan, Gerrie Murres, Rep, Cruyff, Rensenbrink.

Belgium: Piot; Van Binst (Desanghere), Devalque, Van dan Daele, Thissen, Semmeling, Dockx, Verheyen, Martens, Lambert, Van Himst.

Morocco (1) 2 (Maghfour, Faras)
Zambia (0) 0

Morocco: Chaoui; Boujemaa, Larbi I, Baba, Zahroui, Larbi II, Maghfour, Haddadi, Faras, Petchou, Binda (Acila).

Zambia: Mwale; Mualango, Tahama, Makwaza, Musenge, Thiri, Simoolombo, Chanda, Chitala, Sinyancwe (Mapulanga).

West Germany (2) 2 (Heynckes 2)
Spain (0) 1 (Claramunt)

West Germany: Maier; Vogts (Schwarzenbeck), Beckenbauer, Hottges, Cullmann, Hoeness (Bonhof), Overath, Grabowski, Muller, Heynckes.

Spain: Deusto; Sol (Capon), Costas, Benito (Juan Carlos), Uria, Claramunt, Pirri, Asensi, Marcial (Rojo I.), Garate, Valdez.

Sweden (2) 2 (Sandberg, Bo Larsson)
Austria (1) 1 (Hattenberger)

Sweden: Hellstrom; Jan Olsson, Karlsson, Nordqvist, Andersson, Grahn, Bo Larsson, Edstrom, Sandberg, Kindvall, Torstensson (Tapper).

Austria: Reitersleiner; Schmidradner, Horvath, Kriess, Eigenstiller, Hadl (Sturing), Hof, Hattenberger, Krankl, Jara, Kreuz.

International review by Eric Batty

● Continued from page 45

In attack the most consistent player was Saint Etienne's Christian Sarramagna though early on Serge Chiesa also showed his class despite being only half fit and ceding his place to Patrick Revelli in the second half. This brought together four players who once were club mates at Saint Etienne — Sarramagna, Georges Bereta and the Revelli brothers Herve and Patrick. Several promising moves were put together at this time crowned by a 77th minute goal headed by Patrick Revelli from a Sarramagna cross.

Bereta had given France the lead after 53 minutes and Herve Revelli added another header a minute from time. Though Kovacs claimed afterwards that this was France's most encouraging performance there can be no doubt that the Danes were no test. If there is a slight improvement since last season it is only marginal and will only be maintained if new players that do not exist now, can be developed by the clubs.

Hungary wait for revival

EAST GERMANY'S visit to Budapest allowed manager Georg Buschner to introduce several new players and, as a bonus, brought the DDR her first ever away win over the Hungarians. Without the services of Joachim Streich their top scorer in World Cup games (with seven goals) and his partner Wolfram Lowe this was an unexpected boost, despite the fact that the Hungarians have been without a win for more than a year.

1st FC Magdeburg's left wing pair acquitted themselves well—Martin Hoffmann (18) up front and Axell Tyll (20) behind him combining promisingly with the veteran spearhead Peter Ducke who boosted his record international appearances to 60. However, the real German hero was goalkeeper Wolfgang Blochwitz who produced a superb reflex save at close range after Kozma had broken through in the first minute.

Lazslo Fazekas went even closer, but saw his right foot volley hit a post while Ferenc Bene had a very quiet game, blotted out by the FC Carl Zeiss pair Konrad Weise (stopper) and libero Bernd Bransch. Balint should perhaps have equalised soon after Szoke and Nagy had replaced Fazekas and Kozma but very little was given away by a tight, quick tackling German defence.

FRANZ'S RECORD

SPAIN'S visit to the Neckarstadion in Stuttgart gave Wolfgang Overath the chance to equal the 72-cap record held jointly by Uwe Seeler and Franze Beckenbauer, while the latter set a new figure of 73.

Gerd Muller also saw the 50 up (62 goals) but this was not his day. Apart from the fact that he has looked jaded, perhaps the result of too much football, the bomber was regarded as the Spaniard's greatest danger and very closely marked near goal. He was also pulled, pushed and generally manhandled to such an extent that he missed a golden chance presented by Heynckes.

However, during the first half particularly, the Germans produced their best performance of the year with Beckenbauer back to something like his brilliant best coming out into midfield to show his wide array of talents. Berti Vogts had an excellent game too, repeatedly launching right winger Grabowski on his quick, dribbling runs and with the Spanish defence obsessed by the threat of Muller Jupp Heynckes helped himself to two well taken goals.

Close-in

The first, which began with a misplaced pass by a Spanish defender was built up by Overath and Hoeness whose crossfield ball was met close-in by Heynckes at full stretch to side-foot home.

The Germans then took control and little was seen of the Spanish attack even if Luis Garate did make himself highly unpopular with a tank-type performance. Largely defensive, the Spaniards came closest to threatening the Germans when a shot from Pirri hit a post with Maier beaten but their potential match winner, the Argentina-born left winger Valdez saw too little of the ball and despite Kubala's pre-match promise to play attacking football never received sufficient support.

With 38 minutes gone, the Germans were well on top when Heynckes took his second goal. Grabowski on the left beat a man and played to Muller, got back a nicely placed pass and ran on to cross low and hard. Heynckes sprinting to meet it at the near post hit the ball wide of Deusto, first time with his left foot.

The Spanish goal was a controversial affair scored by their captain Claramunt who was their most consistent player. Uria moved up on the left from full back to cross the ball and Maier coming out boobed as only he can. Taking the ball on his chest, his hands completely missed it and the ball fell to Claramunt who pulled it down and netted. Almost everyone bar the referee agreed that Claramunt controlled the ball with his hand but it counted.

Austria fail against Sweden

SWEDEN finally clinched their claim to a World Cup place by beating Austria 2-1 in a play off at Gelsenkirchen but the difference though only marginal was decided by the respective goalkeepers.

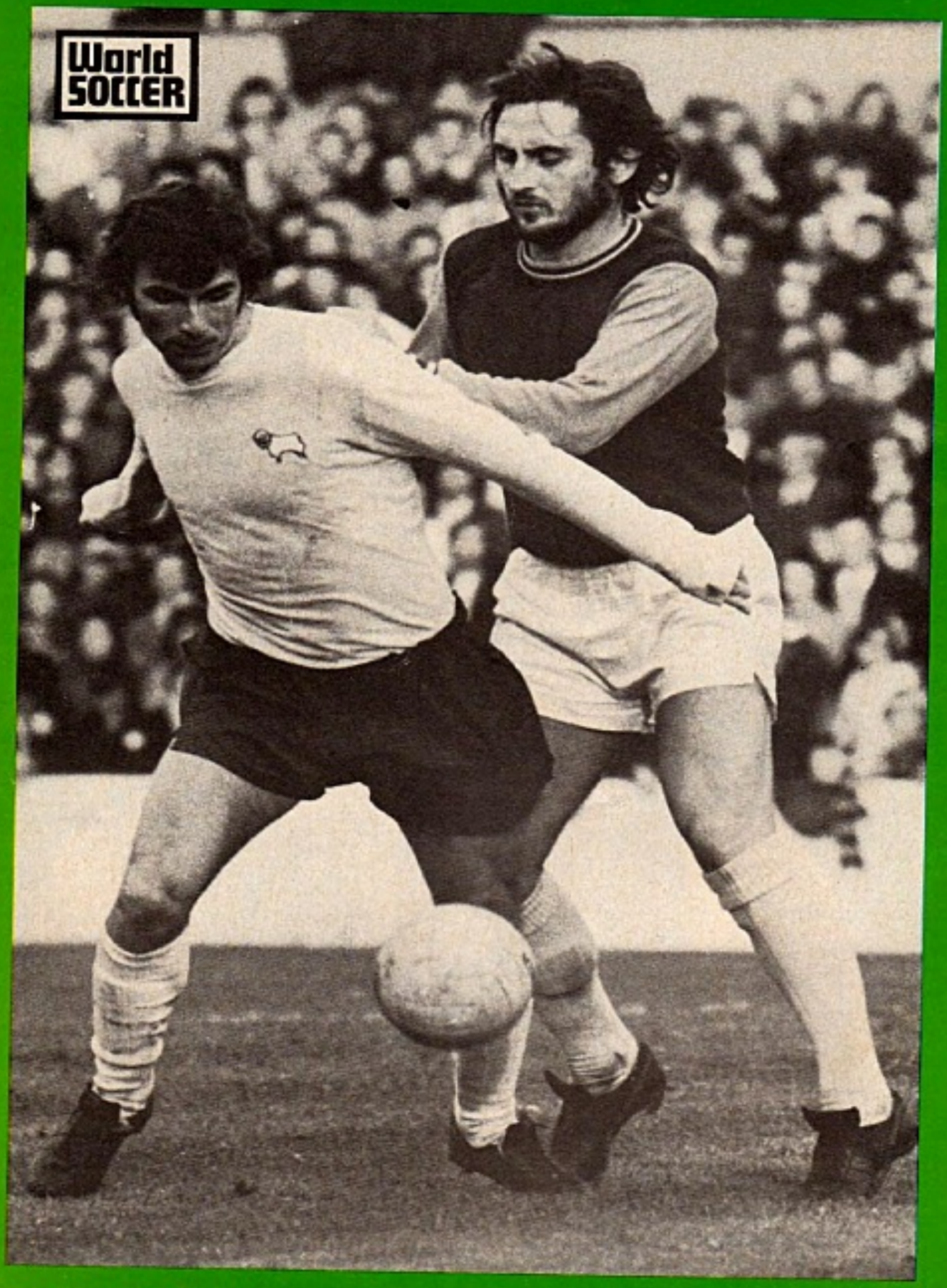
After the Swedes had taken a 2-0 lead Ronnie Hellstrom mis-judged a cross from the right wing and colliding with two defenders took them down with him to leave Roland Hattenberger with an easy chance to reduce the lead. Earlier he had done very well to prevent Kurt Jara from scoring after the winger had broken through alone and in the second half he made three more brave interventions on a pitch that was covered with snow that had a glass-like pitch.

Replaced

At the other end Herbert Rettensteiner had a far from happy time and after contributing to both the Swedish goals was replaced at the break by Friedl Koncilia. Slow off his line when Roland Sandberg broke through he appeared to hesitate, perhaps thinking the ball was going wide before attempting to prevent the ball going in and later he brought down Ove Kindvall to concede a penalty converted by Bo Larsson that eventually settled the match.

In the second half the Austrians threw everything into attack but with Larsson and Ove Grahn at their best in midfield they squandered the few chances that came their way. The much boosted Edstrom was a big disappointment as was the inexperienced Hans Krankl at the other end. If neither side provided anything remarkable it was an injustice to all concerned that such an important issue had to be settled in conditions more suitable for ice-hockey.

World SOCCER
LOU MACARI
Manchester Utd.



KEVIN HECTOR and FRANK LAMPARD

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